

ry team's proposals on housing ld cause Shadow Cabinet split

inservative proposals on housing by a team led by Mrs Thatcher are likely to cause a split in the Shadow Cabinet members believe that Mrs Thatcher's policy leans towards socialism. Sir Frank Figures, chairman of the Pay Board, admitted in a letter to Mr Heath that the way the board handled a relatives inquiry into miners pay could have influenced the result of the general election. Mr Michael Meacher, Under-Secretary of State for Industry, denied yesterday that the Government intended to take over 20 companies

ack of socialism detected in policy report

cost about £156m. Mr Carr and his financial team are all in favour of positive and radical proposals on housing, but they are said to be alarmed by those figures. The other main proposal is that first home buyers should be encouraged to save over a set period with a building society. At the end of that time the Government would make a tax-free gift (not a loan) to the saver proportional to his savings, to enable him to buy a home. Thus if a man saved, say, £900 over three years, the government would give him £300 to help him to put down the deposit on a house for which he could then obtain a mortgage at the new lower rates. A similar scheme operates in Australia. If Mr Heath had reservations about that radical policy, they were overridden when Mrs Thatcher and her group met him last week to discuss the report. She argued persuasively that housing must be the absolute priority to which Mr Heath agreed—and that if necessary the money would have to be found. Grudgingly, it is said, Mr Heath concurred; the proposals have been incorporated into the party's draft election manifesto. If there is no election until the autumn, then Mr Heath told his colleagues the manifesto must be further honed and polished. But a snap election would see it going to the printer, as it stands. Some Tories have taken that to mean that the Thatcher report is perhaps not so interim after all. Several Conservative MPs do not see how Mrs Thatcher's policy proposals could be "sold" to large sections of the electorate or how they could be financed in the event of the Conservatives returning to power. The shadow Treasury team is said to be advising Mr Heath that it is necessary for Mr Heath that the housing sums will not add up. The Shadow Cabinet had agreed after the February election that there should be a radical reconsideration of housing. Accordingly, when Mr Heath set up the special policy groups in April to look at things like rates, prices and incomes policy, devolution and industrial relations, housing was on the list too. Mrs Thatcher and her team of MPs (Mr Heath had specifically excluded from the policy groups all except MPs) then set out to devise policies to ease the burden on those who already had mortgages as owner-occupiers. Britain's option, page 2

Kissinger row leaves Nixon camp in disarray

From Fred Emery
Washington, June 23
Sharp new political quarrels involving Dr Kissinger have erupted on the eve of President Nixon's departure on Tuesday for his summer retreat with the Nato allies and then the Soviet leaders. The most serious involves nuclear missile negotiations with the Russians. The Secretary of State is accused by Senator Henry Jackson of making secret arrangements without informing Congress, permitting the Russians to have more, and the Americans less, submarine missiles than stated in the Moscow agreements of 1972. Dr Kissinger yesterday issued a heated denial of any secret deal, and protested at "this false suspicion" on the eve of the Moscow summit. There is more to this than a squabble with the truculent Senator Jackson over the 1972 arrangement. It is known that the question of undisclosed "interpretations" was raised in closed testimony by Mr Paul Nitze, who resigned in protest over the imminent Salt negotiations from his job as the Pentagon's chief arms control negotiator. Behind Mr Nitze stands Dr Schlesinger, the Secretary of Defence, and between him and Dr Kissinger, as if in a sub-plot, a flood of recriminations has been unleashed this weekend, with indirect but reciprocal accusations over American policy towards Israel during the October war. Into this flood even Britain flutters again with renewal of the story about Dr Kissinger's anger towards Britain over the "cover story" Mr Heath wanted if the secret SR71 reconnaissance aircraft were to use the RAF base in Cyprus during the Arab-Israeli war. Dr Kissinger, in pique, is still restricting the flow of military intelligence to Britain, despite bilateral exchange agreements, according to an article by Mr Tad Szulc in New York magazine out tomorrow. The squabbles reflect an extraordinary disarray among the President's advisers at a time when there is great division in the political community about the wisdom of the President's Moscow summit. For instance, no government position has yet been agreed for the Moscow strategic arms limitation (Salt) discussions which the President is to hold. This is against all Mr Nixon's own rules about the necessity of being prepared. But authoritative sources confide that Dr Schlesinger and Dr Kissinger have been unable to settle their differences persisting over the complicated limitations all wish to see placed on multiple independent re-entry vehicles (MIRVs). There was a National Security Council meeting last Thursday which was a business meeting between both Secretaries yesterday. The authoritative word is that it is now likely that this vital issue will be left up in the air for the actual Moscow negotiations. Dr Kissinger is expected to advise Mr Nixon that he is likely to be another testing news conference tomorrow morning. Whether Dr Kissinger will feel his honour impugned as much in this Salt quarrel as he is likely to be another testing news conference tomorrow morning. Dr Kissinger will feel his honour impugned as much in this Salt quarrel as he is likely to be another testing news conference tomorrow morning. Dr Kissinger will feel his honour impugned as much in this Salt quarrel as he is likely to be another testing news conference tomorrow morning.



The Times flag flying over New Printing House Square yesterday as removal vans were unloading.

The Times moves: Today's is the first full issue of The Times to be published from the newspaper's new offices in New Printing House Square. At the weekend it moved to Gray's Inn Road from Blackfriars, where it had published for 189 years. Yesterday the house flag of The Times was raised over the new building, which has been called New Printing House Square to maintain associations with the former home of the newspaper. The move to a site alongside The Sunday Times means that for the first time the whole of Times Newspapers Ltd will be housed in one complex. The presses of the Sunday newspaper will print The Times and The Guardian each weekday, making maximum use of the machinery. Last Friday night The Times printed for the last time at Printing House Square. The site was known as the King's Printing House in 1785 when The Daily Universal Register, as The Times was originally called, was first published. On Saturday the moving of the editorial and advertising sections was begun. Furniture, machinery and other equipment were moved in time for staff to prepare today's newspaper. Next weekend The Times Educational Supplement, The Times Literary Supplement and The Times Higher Education Supplement will move into the building with the head office of Times Newspapers. The new address of The Times is: PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone, 01-837 1234; Telex 264971. Classified advertisements after July 1: Telephone 01-837 3311. Diary, page 10. Leading article, page 11.

Board s ission on ash

ical Staff
ision that the way board handled the over miners' wages election campaign may have the election result from Sir Frank Figures. Mr Meacher said in a BBC radio programme: "They are not the subject for total or partial takeover. But he added that the companies listed in the form part of the framework of planning agreements, aimed at bringing a closer relationship between the objectives of private companies and national economic objectives. The list of 20 companies was released on Saturday night by Mr Griffiths, the Minister of State for Industry, who said he had received the details in a Commons written reply after a question to Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry. The companies named are: Allied Breweries; Bass; Barclay's; Baxters; British Insulated Cables; British Leyland; Courtaulds; Esso Petroleum; Ford Motor Company; Gallaher; Grand Metropolitan; General Electric; Guinness; ICI; Imperial Chemicals; Imperial Tobacco; Rank-Hovis; Reed International; Secur Holdings; Tate and Lyle; Unigate; and Unilever. Mr Griffiths said that he had "squeezed out of the Government, piece by piece, the truth about Labour's political offensive against private industry" (our Political Staff writes). Although he asked for the list

Minister denies 20 firms on Benn list are to be taken over

Mr Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, denied yesterday that the Government intends to take over the 20 top companies which Mr Benn has listed as "servative" MP for Bury, St Edmunds, claims have been earmarked for state intervention. Mr Meacher said in a BBC radio programme: "They are not the subject for total or partial takeover. But he added that the companies listed in the form part of the framework of planning agreements, aimed at bringing a closer relationship between the objectives of private companies and national economic objectives. The list of 20 companies was released on Saturday night by Mr Griffiths, the Minister of State for Industry, who said he had received the details in a Commons written reply after a question to Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry. The companies named are: Allied Breweries; Bass; Barclay's; Baxters; British Insulated Cables; British Leyland; Courtaulds; Esso Petroleum; Ford Motor Company; Gallaher; Grand Metropolitan; General Electric; Guinness; ICI; Imperial Chemicals; Imperial Tobacco; Rank-Hovis; Reed International; Secur Holdings; Tate and Lyle; Unigate; and Unilever. Mr Griffiths said that he had "squeezed out of the Government, piece by piece, the truth about Labour's political offensive against private industry" (our Political Staff writes). Although he asked for the list

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Ulster soldier on murder charge

From Robert Fisk
Bel 'st
A young British soldier was charged yesterday with the murder of a Roman Catholic shot dead on a housing estate in Strabane, Co Tyrone, on Saturday. Trooper Alec John Fury, aged 18, of the Life Guards, appeared at a special court in Londonderry accused of killing Mr Hugh Devine, a married man with four children. He was remanded until July 25. He was given personal bail of £1,000 after the Crown Prosecutor said that he would have objected to bail but he had been given an assurance that the defendant would be held in secure military custody until his next court appearance. Mr Devine, aged 33, was killed on the Ballycolman housing estate in Strabane soon after 9 pm on Saturday. After his death, there were demands for an inquiry from Mr Ivan Cooper, the former Minister of Community Relations. Another proxy bombing in Belfast yesterday afternoon caused considerable blast damage to an Army post in Flax Street. Several IRA men had earlier held up a newspaper seller and his daughter, aged 15, and ordered him to take a 300lb bomb to the post while the girl was held hostage. He left the van outside a factory in which soldiers of 20 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, were billeted. He gave a warning, however, and there were no injuries when the bomb exploded. Early yesterday a 200 lb gas cylinder bomb exploded outside the Welcome Inn in Moy, Co Tyrone. Again there were no injuries, but the inn and three houses near by, were destroyed. Call to withdraw troops: The National Council of the Young Liberals, meeting in Birmingham, voted yesterday that the party should campaign for withdrawal of British troops from Ulster. (The Press Association reports). New "loyalist" party, page 2

Socialist candidate elected President of Austria

Vienna, June 23.—Dr Rudolf Kirchschlager, the Foreign Minister, was elected President of Austria today, maintaining the Socialist Party's unbroken hold on the presidency since the Second World War. He secured a closely fought election with an apparent 4 per cent lead over the conservative People's Party candidate, Dr Alois Lugger, the Mayor of Innsbruck. Dr Kirchschlager's victory became certain when he took nearly 64 per cent of the votes in Vienna, Socialist stronghold whose voters comprise nearly one-quarter of the total five-million electorate.

Iron bars wielded in China political street brawl

From David Bonavia
Peking, June 23
A number of people have been jailed in Nanchang, the capital of Jiangxi province in South Central China, after a political street brawl among rival political factions armed with sticks, stones and iron bars. Reports of the fighting—the first such incidents to be publicized since the Cultural Revolution of 1966—were contained in wall posters put up today in Peking and signed by workers from Nanchang. One of the posters referred to an incident which allegedly took place on June 19, and said there had been bloodshed. Rightists had confiscated more than 10 lorries, loaded them with stones, and used them as propaganda vehicles. The provincial authorities were accused of failing to intervene. The posters, which were addressed to Chairman Mao Tse-tung in person, accused the provincial authorities of defying instruction from the communist party centre in Peking. The posters said that people had been jailed in the wake of the factional fighting but said that rightists bands were parading the streets armed with cudgels and iron bars.

Italians fail to reach finals of World Cup

Italy, one of the favourites, were knocked out of the World Cup yesterday. They lost 2-1 to Poland in Stuttgart and were eliminated on goal difference. Eight countries have qualified for the second round which begins on Wednesday. They include the World Cup holders, Brazil, as well as East Germany, West Germany, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland and Argentina. Reports, page 8

Doubts on US firm linked with Rolls-Royce

The future of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, which has important contractual ties with Rolls-Royce, seems more uncertain than ever after the release of details of a rescue deal with Textron Inc. The arrangements give Lockheed the opportunity of removing itself from massive indebtedness. The conditions are so stringent, however, that some analysts doubt whether Lockheed will be able to fulfil them. It cannot, its creditworthiness could stand lower than Westinghouse. Business News, page 13

Jura separatists vote for French-speaking canton

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, June 23
By a narrow majority the French-speaking Swiss separatists have voted in favour of a separate canton for themselves in the Jura mountains, which since the 1815 Treaty of Vienna has been part of the German-speaking canton of Bernese. The overall majority was 2,748 (38.502 for and 34,057 against). There was a 90 per cent poll. As expected, the majority was decisive in the three northern-most of the Jura's seven districts. Three of the southern ones were more evenly divided, while the remaining one, Lausen, asserted its attachment to Bern. Within six months there is expected to be a second round of voting in which the district, having reflected on this week-

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er post come soon?

of sending a first-class letter to 4p must go up soon from Jackson, secretary of Post Office. It is expected that the price of a first-class letter will be increased to 4p. The post will have to go to the near future. If the price is going to be raised, it will be a disaster for the staff. The staff

Indian critically ill

Delhi, June 23.—The former Indian President and philosopher, Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, aged 86, was in critical condition after a stroke in the southern city of Madras, the Press Trust of

The rest of the news

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- Nuclear test: Labour faces party crisis if reports are true. 2
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- Brussels: Britain's increased efforts to obtain contract for new Nato aircraft. 4
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HOME NEWS

Sir Keith Joseph says choice is to go down with socialism or prosper in a rational economy

The "debilitating semi-socialism" Britain had followed in the past 30 years could not work, Sir Keith Joseph, Opposition spokesman for home affairs, said on Saturday. He told a meeting in Uppminster, Essex, that Britain "has to decide whether to go down with Mr Benn or on to a more rational economy."

Labour faces party crisis if nuclear reports are true

They will want the clearest possible statement from Mr Mason about Government policy in this field. How, they will ask, does the report fit with America's affect Britain's membership of the European Community? What are the implications for Europe?

Firemen win praise over blast at Westminster

Lord Shepherd, Leader of the House of Lords, has written to the London Fire Brigade paying tribute to its members' skill and courage in dealing with the fire in Westminster Hall which followed the bomb explosion last Monday.



Children in Trafalgar Square yesterday enjoying an open-air show organised by the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children to mark the start of Mental Handicap Week.

New Ulster 'loyalist' party formed

"Loyalist" politics in Northern Ireland expanded at the weekend to include a new party and to take in one of Mr Brian Faulkner's former Executive ministers. Mr Faulkner, the former Minister of the Environment, virtually deserted the Executive in its final days and when the British Government was refusing to talk to the leaders of one Protestant strike last month he was openly advocating discussion with them.

Clay Cross rebels' deficit put at £356,000

The first estimate of the deficit incurred by the former Clay Cross Union Council in Derbyshire, which refused to implement the Housing Finance Act, is £356,000. That figure was given to the North-east Derbyshire District Council by Mr Ronald Billington, chief executive officer, who added: "It is not possible yet to provide reliable information about the financial affairs of Clay Cross."

Theatre damaged

A fire yesterday severely damaged the Commodore entertainment centre in Nottingham, where Jack Jones, the American singer, is to appear this week. The management said that the show would not be affected.

Tube work restarts

Work on the London Transport Underground station at Heathrow Airport is to restart today when members of the Transport and General Workers' Union end a seven-week strike.

Motoring at schools

A course of motoring for secondary school pupils is being introduced into the Certificate of Education syllabus by the Associated Lancashire Schools Examinining Board.

Guard hit by pellet

Mr Terence Haydock, aged 31, a British Rail guard, was hit on the head by a pellet at the weekend while sitting in the cab of a diesel engine near Sefton Park station, Liverpool.

Author breaks wrists

Dr Phyllis Bentley, aged 79, the author, is in hospital after breaking both wrists in a fall outside her home near Halifax.

Nurses' union to step up campaign of disruption

By Alan Hamilton Leaders of 70,000 nurses will today step up their campaign of industrial action, which has already forced the closure of an estimated 300 hospital wards.

Singer wins London crossword final

By a Special Correspondent Five of the 169 contestants in the London A final of the Curry Times national crossword championship, held over the weekend, achieved maximum puzzle points. The three with the highest time bonus points go on to the national final.

Dr Coggan urges tax rises to aid 'third world'

The Archbishop of York and Archbishop-elect of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, yesterday invited British taxpayers to lighten their belts and tell the Government they would be willing to pay more taxes so long as the money went to the "third world".

Restore off-peak power prices now, council says

The National Consumer Protection Council yesterday urged the Prime Minister to restore half-price electricity immediately for off-peak users.

Child murder charges

A woman is to appear before magistrates at Hoveham, Sussex, today charged with the murder of Lisa Lawrence, aged three, and her brother Neil, aged six months, at their home in Bennett's Road, Hoveham, on Saturday night.

Ark Royal defect

Training of the air crews and ship's company of HMS Ark Royal, now in Devonport, has been delayed for a fortnight by a boiler defect discovered during her sea trials after a recent refit.

Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast and recordings section containing maps of the UK and Europe, and tables of weather data for various locations including London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

Ld Olivier threatened with Equit expulsion

By Kenneth Gosling Lord Olivier and his actor Mr Derek Bond, an expulsion from Equit, union, if they fail to satisfactory explanation newspaper reports last that they plan to form a away association if the he gains control.

Mr Mintoff joining Socialist talks

Valletta, June 23.—Mr Don Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, is to attend next week's meeting of the Socialist International in London. He is expected to leave on Thursday.

At the resorts

London: Temp: m 7 am, 15°C (59°F); 7 pm, 20°C (68°F); 24 hrs to 5 pm, June 24: 1,016.0 millibars, su 2.4 hr. Bar. mean se 1,014.0 millibars, ris 1,000 millibars = 29.5

THE TIMES SPECIAL REPORTS logo and text: We like to keep you in the know.

Why no car, including ours, can ever be called perfect.

Whatever impression you may have received to the contrary, every car is of necessity a compromise.

The characteristics that can make a car good in one respect tend to make it less good in others.

Economy sacrifices performance. Performance sacrifices economy. Technically, in fact, it is simply not possible for any car (even one costing £15,000) to be best at everything.

For £2,194, however, you can have a car that comes remarkably close: the Audi 100LS.

The economy car.

Broadly speaking, the smaller the car's engine the greater its fuel economy.

Which is why the 850 c.c. Mini manages to do 47.6 m.p.g. at 50 m.p.h.



Mini 850: 47.6 m.p.g. at 50 m.p.h.
Audi 100LS: 41.2 m.p.g. at 50 m.p.h.

30.5 m.p.g., which is also 25% more than these other cars.

Surprisingly, the 1.8 litre Audi 100LS manages to do almost as well, returning 41.2 m.p.g. at 50 m.p.h. (both figures obtained by Autocar).

Compare the Audi 100LS with the five leading cars in its class and you'll find it averages 25% more m.p.g. at 50 m.p.h.

Even at 70 m.p.h., the Audi 100LS returns

The performance car.

Most fast cars achieve their performance by virtue of their large engine size.

The 4.2 litre Jaguar XJ6, for instance, manages a standing start quarter mile in just 17.5 seconds.

The Audi 100LS, relying on engineering efficiency, is only 1.2 seconds behind, despite the fact that the Audi's power unit is under half the size of the Jaguar's. (Comparison made by



Jaguar XJ6 (A): standing start ¼ mile: 17.5 secs.
Audi 100LS (A): standing start ¼ mile: 18.7 secs.

Autocar using automatic versions of both cars).

If you look at the Audi's five leading competitors, all of them have larger engines. But only one of them has a faster 0-60 m.p.h. time than our 11.9 secs. (That particular car has to rely on a 70% larger engine, with all that means in petrol consumption).

The performance that comes from our engine, incidentally, isn't achieved by straining it. Indeed, you'll find the Audi 100LS is one of the few cars that is able to cruise all day at maximum speed without straining the engine.

The spacious car.

The more room a designer allows for passengers and their luggage in a car, the longer that car tends to become.

But the longer it becomes, the harder it can be to manoeuvre in town conditions.

The Rolls Royce Silver Shadow, for instance, gives its

passengers a generous 6'0" total leg room, and 22 cu.ft. of boot space. But this results in a car that's almost 17 ft. long.



Rolls Royce: 6' 0" of leg room, 22 cu.ft. of boot space.
Audi 100LS: 5' 8" of leg room, 23 cu.ft. of boot space.

The Audi 100LS, though a full 22" shorter than the Rolls, actually offers you all but 4" as much leg room and 1 cu.ft. more boot space.

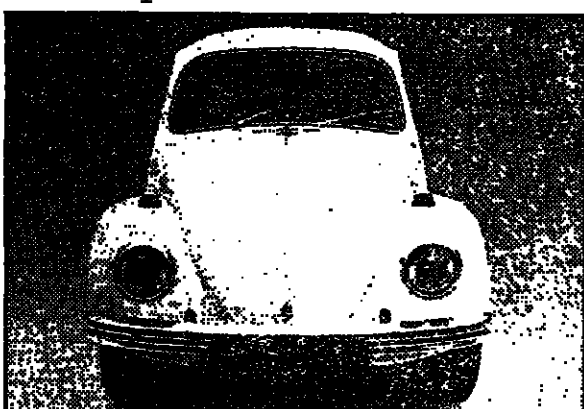
Within the Audi's own class, there is even one particular car that's 7" longer than ours, but offers you less total leg room and less boot space.

Which shows that even if you buy a larger car, you don't necessarily get any more room.

The practical car.

The danger of a sophisticated engineering design is that it can become impractical. And its owner ends up with a temperamental vehicle forever needing attention.

In the Audi's case, its engineering sophistication carries no such price. Its performance, for instance, is achieved without the complications of twin carburettors or fuel injection.



VW Beetle: hand finished acrylic paintwork.
Audi 100LS: hand finished acrylic paintwork.

It only needs a full service, in fact, every 10,000 miles. At least two of the other cars in its class can only manage 3,000 miles between services.

You'll find that the Audi's paintwork resists rust in the same way as a Volkswagen Beetle. (Both the paint and the application system are the same.)

And as Audi and Volkswagen are linked companies, the same standard of after-sales service applies to both.

If you want to know the facts, send for the free Fact Analysis.

Send us your name and address, and we'll send you our special Fact Analysis. Using impartial data from the motoring magazines, it compares the Audi 100LS with the Ford Granada, the Peugeot 504, the Triumph 2000, the Rover 2200 and the Volvo 144.

You will find that none of these leading cars comes out perfect.

But by knowing the facts, you'll at least know what you're buying.

Please send me your free Fact Analysis comparing six luxury executive saloons. And a copy of the Swedish Government's safety check on the Audi 100LS, the Volvo 144 and the Peugeot 504.

Name _____

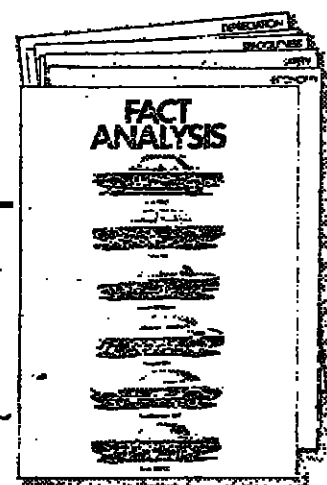
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HOME NEWS

Scottish Labour Party dismisses devolution as 'irrelevant' to essential socialist strategy

From Our Correspondent
Port Glasgow
The Labour Party in Scotland has rejected any form of home rule. The recent consultative document on devolution prepared by Lord Crowther-Hunt, the Government's official adviser on constitutional matters, has been dismissed as "irrelevant to the real needs of the people of Scotland".

The decision, announced yesterday, is surprising many people in the party who were prepared to endorse the proposal of an elected Scottish Assembly as official policy. But the party's Scottish executive has taken a hard line on devolution and, unlike the Tories and the Liberals, has decided to make no concessions to Scottish nationalism.

It was emphasized yesterday that the rejection was complete. Mr Thomas Fulton, chairman of the executive subcommittee of six, said that as a matter of political expediency it might have been easy for the executive to have favoured the

principle of a Scottish Assembly. But "one has to be more fundamental and truthful". The party's essential strategy was to "bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of the working people and their families. The development of the Scottish economy is crucial. The impact of North Sea oil, in particular, will be vital."

The executive committee had concluded that constitutional tinkering does not make a meaningful contribution towards achieving our socialist objectives. The new regional and district authorities were not even under way yet, they should be allowed a reasonable period to prove that they could satisfy the needs and aspirations of the Scottish people.

The meeting on Saturday at which the executive made its decision was attended by 11 members out of a possible 29. Mr Peter Allison, the Scottish secretary of the party, said, yesterday "We are going to demand to this Government that much more positive powers

are taken to see that the economic wealth of the country is more evenly distributed than has been the case in the past, even under a Labour Government. One of the principal factors in the new scene is the revenue from oil, and what we say is that this cannot be achieved by having an elected assembly in Scotland."

Mr Alan Campbell Maclean, former chairman of the Scottish Labour Party, said it was absurd to interpose another body between the new regional and district authorities and the major legislature.

A national campaign on rates planned

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent
Continued protests in England and Wales about rate increases this year has encouraged the National Union of Ratepayers' Associations to call for a national effort to get rid of the present rating system.

The Union, which claims to represent about 500 associations and half a million ratepayers, says it has received a record number of inquiries from potential pressure groups. At the weekend the union urged ratepayers to make rates a major issue in the next general election, and "to seize control of squandering councils" in the next round of local government elections.

A meeting in London on Saturday of the union's central council unanimously endorsed a five-point plan it intends to put to the Government. The plan calls for the immediate elimination of the sewerage element of the water authority's charge on rural properties not connected to main drainage; a government inquiry into and an embargo on all but essential new capital spending by local authorities; an immediate rate support grant, particularly to ease the burden on rural areas; the transfer to the national exchequer of that part of educational costs now borne by rates; and substantial reform of the present domestic rating system.

The meeting also approved a call for a campaign to be waged at national and local level to gain a fairer deal for domestic ratepayers. As a result, local ratepayers' associations are to be urged to warn local political parties that they will actively campaign against candidates in the next general election who do not publicly pledge themselves to support rating reform and also against those members of Parliament seeking re-election who have not actively shown support in the present House of Commons for such reforms.

Local associations will be encouraged to begin planning to secure the election of non-party political rate reform councillors at the next district council and local elections. In the meantime they will be advised to set up "vigilante" committees to attend council and council committee meetings to watch, and if necessary challenge, council expenditure proposals.

Major Henry Haydon, chairman of the union, said at the meeting: "War has been declared. Increasing pressures on ratepayers' pockets will ensure that they will not support local and national election candidates who refuse to pledge themselves to bring about changes. It is nonsense to claim that there is no viable alternative to the present archaic rating system. A local tax levied on everyone according to his pay is the solution."

Oxford faces £390,000 deficit by July, 1975

From Our Correspondent
Oxford
Oxford University faces a deficit of £390,000 by the end of its next financial year, on July 31, 1975. During the year planned new development will have to be abandoned and a cutback in the Hebdomadal Council says in announcing budget decisions for 1974-75. The situation is attributed to Government cuts in spending on higher education, to heavy additional costs as a result of the Government's Budget, and to further inflation, which has brought threshold arrangements into operation.

The council says there is a substantial accumulated surplus to be carried forward from the current year, but the deficit for 1974-75 is estimated at £60,000. It adds: "The essential point is that the £390,000 deficit on the year's working is the measure of the extent to which the university, on present expectations, will be living beyond its recurrent means in 1974-75."

Even if full compensation for inflation is provided in 1975 and 1976, this would only prevent further deterioration in the 1974-75 position.

The council says the university cannot run a deficit in these years because there will be no accumulated surplus to offset it.

Unless there is some restoration by the University Grants Committee of the income lost in the next financial year there will have to be a substantial further reduction in university activity. University spending bodies are to be told to cut recurrent commitments. The council adds that the budget excludes all requests for new provisions.

The budget is for an estimated income in 1974-75 of £14,837,095, compared with £14,837,762 in 1973-74, the last year for which firm figures are available. Government grants account for £13,779,855 of that estimated income. Expenditure is estimated at £15,229,154, against £12,803,845 in 1973-74.

Mersey ferries hit by two stoppages

From Our Correspondent
Liverpool
Commuters from Cheshire who usually travel to work in Liverpool on the Mersey ferries will have to find other means of transport today, as services will be struck dead, with 100 crewmen and stage hands involved in two separate disputes. The Birkenhead men, who are staging a 24-hour unofficial stoppage in support of a half-yearly bonus claim, returned to work yesterday morning, but then decided at a lunchtime meeting to come out again last night. The Wallasey crews at their lunchtime meeting voted to continue the stoppage, which started on Monday night after four men had been suspended. When the decision was known the Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive cancelled educational cruises for 750 children on the ferry Royal Daffodil and a cruise for 100 blind Merseyside children on the Royal Iris.



Not lost for a word, Miss Susan Wilson, playing at the National Scrabble Championship in London yesterday.

After 50 years Gleneagles hotel still keeps its Edwardian sporting image

Resting proudly on its five stars and accolades from the most discerning hotel users, Gleneagles last weekend celebrated 50 years of service to the wealthy, precarious, and sporting elite of the tourist industry. The palatial building sprawls in 700 acres of Perthshire countryside, with a hint of chateau about its rooftops. At night when the windows are lit the horizon almost from the Queen Mary grounds on a golf course. For golf surrounds the hotel outside, and dominates a lot of the talk inside. The King's and Queen's courses roll over the horizon almost from the Queen Mary grounds on a golf course. For golf surrounds the hotel outside, and dominates a lot of the talk inside.

While the tendency in many hotels is to economize on staff and to prune the extra, Gleneagles employs waiters in battalion strength, and declares in its brochure: "To stay here is to experience one of the travel highlights of a lifetime, like seeing the Taj Mahal for the first time, or cruising into Acapulco or skiing down the Parsonen."

Apparently there is little commercial sense these days in pretending to be less than you are, and according to the management, the concept of a luxurious hotel surrounded by gentlemanly sporting activities is more attractive than ever. "We were rather afraid the economic situation would hit us badly. Certainly there are other Scottish hotels in business, but this promises to be a record season for us," the management said.

Regional report
Ronald Faux
Gleneagles

Over the weekend 30 ambassadors and other leading personalities in British political and professional life sat down to a grand banquet aimed at recreating the splendour of the opening ball in 1924.

Even at that time there were doubters of the Caledonian Railway Board who predicted that Gleneagles would become a monstrous white elephant. In those days a single room cost 12s 6d, and a double room with private bath 37s 6d; and 25s bought dinner, bed and breakfast with return first-class rail travel from Glasgow.

Today a double bedroom with private bath may cost £20.30 a day plus 22 per cent service and VAT charges. Visitors' servants are accommodated from £4.15 a day inclusive. The cost includes free use of tennis courts, billiard tables, croquet lawn, bowling green, squash court and heated swimming pool. British Gleneagles has taken over the hotel has added a sauna bath and cinema to the original facilities. "We are a self-contained community of up to 700 souls," Mr James Bannatyne, general manager, says. Which is just as well, since Gleneagles is many

Regional report
Ronald Faux
Gleneagles

miles from the nearest town, but there are shops within the hotel including fishmonger, golf equipment and clothing of soiree wear.

Robert has meant that finding staff can be difficult. "We have people working here from local villages, but also from Turkey, Morocco, Italy, Jamaica and Brazil. It is a big operation, but we try to keep it homely and personal," Mr Bannatyne said.

That is difficult when there may be 370 guests to cosset, 220 bedrooms to serve, and a weekly order for 30,000 groceries, 350 gallons of milk and several hundred bottles of wine to secure. Maintaining high quality in such an atmosphere is challenging. Yet Gleneagles was the only hotel outside London that retained its character after the war. Last year Egon Ronay named it the best hotel in Europe.

Sweets had four times legal level of arsenic

Cough sweets bought by a woman in a shop in Buckinghamshire have been found to contain four times the permitted amount of arsenic. Less than 10 minutes after starting to suck one each the woman and her son felt giddy and were sick. They threw the rest of the sweets away, but their dog ate some and also became ill. The firm which makes the sweets is to investigate the case, which came to light when the mother complained to the consumer protection officer for Buckinghamshire, Mr Guy Davis.

No scarcity of kidney machines

Dr Harry Lee, head of the kidney research unit at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, has asked charitable organizations not to send kidney machines to the unit. He criticized the Department of Health and Social Security for not stating that there was no shortage of machines.

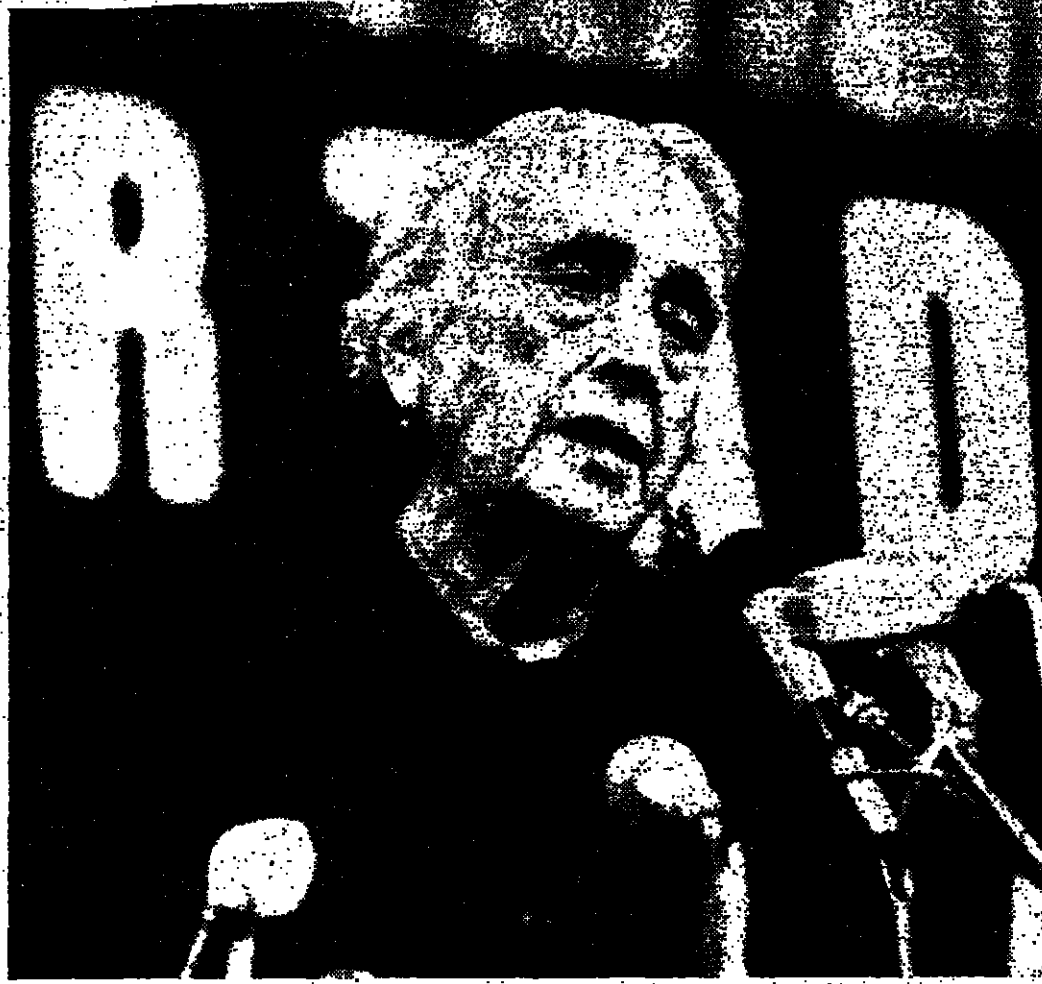
Bishop says new churches should be shared

No more churches should be built in Britain exclusively for Anglicans if other denominations were willing to share them, the Bishop of Derby, the Right Rev Cyril Bowles, said on Saturday.

Malta restricts use of fresh water

Valletta, June 23.—Swimming pool owners in Malta face a fine of between £300 and £1,000 if they fill their pools with fresh water. The Government has restricted the use of fresh water to drinking and irrigation.

WEST EUROPE



Señora Dolores Ibarruri, "La Pasionaria", the Spanish Communist leader, sings a Civil War song yesterday at a Geneva rally.

Pasionaria plea to the army

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, June 23
An appeal to the patriotism of officers in the Spanish armed forces was made at a rally in Geneva today by Señora Dolores Ibarruri, known as La Pasionaria, the president of the Spanish Communist Party.

She said that their attitude was crucial if "inevitable" democratic changes in Spain were to take place with minimal violence. Praising the role played by the military in Portugal, she called for an end to the "Civil War spirit" among Spaniards and for reconciliation between all political groups opposed to dictatorship.

Señor Santiago Carrillo, the party secretary-general, called for rapprochement between the people and the military so that in Spain as in Portugal "children can put red carnations on the rifle barrels as a symbol of friendship 'between the Army and people'."

Both speakers referred favourably to General Diaz Alegria, the former Spanish chief of staff. Señora Carrillo said that the general had been removed because his plans for modernising the Army did not interest a regime that wanted the military as a police force for maintaining internal order.

An estimated 12,000 Spaniards, many of them from other West European countries, filled the Geneva stadium for the rally. It was arranged by the Swiss Communist Party in co-operation with the Spanish Communists.

The organizers were informed last week by the Swiss Government that neither Señora Carrillo, who came from Paris, nor La Pasionaria, who has lived in Moscow since 1939, would be permitted to speak.

Tape recordings of their speeches were played instead. Both came to the rostrum after words to deliver short addresses. La Pasionaria, her surprisingly firm for a woman of 78 also sang a song of the Civil War era.

Curbs on press introduced in Portugal

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, June 23
An £8,500 fine and a suspension for two months are threatened for Portuguese newspapers that have abused the new freedom of the press. A new press law was signed by President Antonio de Spínola this weekend authorizing the Junta of National Salvation to form an ad hoc committee to control strictly the press, radio, television and cinema.

Although censorship has been abolished, the new law has been promulgated "to guarantee the liberty to express ideas announced in the programme of the armed forces movement, and with the determination to ensure that the substitution of the former political system shall proceed without internal collisions affecting the peace, progress and well-being of the nation."

Italian judiciary clash with Parliament

From Peter Nichols
Rome, June 23
An institutional clash is taking shape with an appeal by a Rome judge and a public prosecutor to the Constitutional Court calling on Parliament to hand back to the judiciary responsibility for the investigation of alleged political corruption, which was taken over by a parliamentary committee.

The inquiry involves alleged payments in the past to all political parties, except the Communists, by the huge chemical firm of Montedison.

Italian judiciary clash with Parliament

The request represents a high point in the now chronic animosity between politicians and the judges. The 10,000 pages of evidence in the case were obtained by Parliament on March 28, some 18 days after a periodical had published here what were said to be original documents in the case and which were highly compromising for certain politicians and other public figures.

Legal proceedings are being taken against four people said to have been involved in the destruction of five tons of mail early this year.

British bid for Nato air contract increased

From Roger Berthoud
Brussels, June 23
Britain is stepping up its bid for one of the fastest jobs in Europe's arms procurement: the contract to replace some 300 combat aircraft, mainly F 104 G fighters, of the Belgian, Danish and Norwegian forces. Greece, Turkey, Canada are all interested bidders.

The four small Nato countries involved have agreed to make a joint bid, increasing the overall cost making a contribution to aim of greater standardization. The main contenders are to be two American bids: the General Dynamics and Northrop's F 105 (more expensive variant Cobra), France's Mirage 53 from the Dassault group, and the Swedish Viggen, said Saab.

Britain is now vice putting forward as a bid the Anglo-French offering of the British Aerospace Corporation and Avions Dassault-Breguet. A few days ago the Belgian Government in a memorandum giving all the benefits which flow from ordering the

The BAC offer says 1 per cent of the Jaguar's cost would be offset by provisions for Belgium to receive 2,300,000 hours of work over 10 years. For good measure, the British are offering to build a multi-combat aircraft of the Jaguar's versatility and a (a prototype is about 1/2 way through).

The British point out contrast to several countries the Jaguar is already in a total of 400 having ordered by the French. British air forces. All designed to cap a detailed offer from M I which the Belgian Minister, Mr Paul Boeyens found part attractive.

The Belgians are in position. Their Starfighter is reaching the end of its life in around 1980, and a decision to replace them is needed. The Dutch also have to replace their F 104's.

But the Danes and the Greeks have a different frame. Their Starfighter good until the early 1980s, but they need replacing, but it is the difference in coupled with differing pressures, may split them from the front of the four.

The Jaguar's handicap is its high level of replacement aircraft expected to fulfil.

The stubby-winged fighter was originally a high-level day fighter. The European countries bought it for its weather interception (ing sophisticated radar) and for low level support "interdiction" into enemy territory. Starfighter not designed to carry weaponry needed for 1 tasks.

The Starfighter's replacement is expected to fulfil as well as the Jaguar. British admit that the while very effective and minimal at low levels, its level intercepter. They that separate aircraft needed to fulfil each efficiently.

Of the other competitor Swedish Viggen is admired by air force pilots. It is very expensive. Sweden's status is a snag. The Swedes, appreciate Nato countries will not be dependent on a neut said to be prepared for wholly produced under in Nato member states.

The American offer still in the early development stage. This could make it to tailor them to European needs, but leaves a large potentially expensive of the unknown.

The Americans, past in the application of pressure, will certainly to bear. If either the N or the General Dynamics craft is accepted for the States Air Force inventory purchasing countries m able to draw on the full support for spares and ing of American Europe, an enormous tion. And then the States might feel unbalanced, notoriously weapons to French air

Plea to put EEC above national interests

By Malcolm Brown
European industrial leaders have sent a plea to the British Government to put the aims of the European Economic Community above national self-interests.

Malta restricts use of fresh water

Valletta, June 23.—Swimming pool owners in Malta face a fine of between £300 and £1,000 if they fill their pools with fresh water. The Government has restricted the use of fresh water to drinking and irrigation.

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Italian judiciary clash with Parliament

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North Vietnamese break off talks Saigon and demand 'guarantee privileges' as price of resuming

June 23.—The Viet-Nam North Vietnamese definitely suspended military talks in Saigon.

The United States Embassy spokesman said no statement was immediately expected from the American side.

The negotiations in Saigon have produced no results since the final round of prisoner exchanges at the beginning of this year and have been plagued by mutual recriminations.

In a broadcast monitored in Hongkong, the North Vietnam News Agency said North Vietnam accused the United States of "sabotaging the Paris agreement" and the sinking of a North Vietnamese vessel which was "carrying out its civil supply mission" off the South Vietnamese coast last Thursday.

Obviously the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu Administration still refuse to negotiate seriously and are feverishly stepping up war and sabotage operations in an attempt to impose United States neo-colonialism on South Vietnam and to perpetuate the partition of Vietnam," the Hanoi Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The statement added that North Vietnam fully supported the "correct and necessary decision" of the Vietcong to suspend the negotiations and had instructed its own delegates accordingly.

"The United States and the Saigon Administration must bear full responsibility for the grave situation in South Vietnam at present," it said.

Phnom Penh, June 23.—Khmer Rouge gunners yesterday attacked a convoy steaming up the Mekong river from South Vietnam, sinking one rice barge and damaging five cargo ships, Navy sources in Phnom Penh said today.

The convoy—consisting of six cargo ships and 14 barges—was attacked at two points, one 40 miles south-east and another seven miles south-east of the capital, sources said.

It was the worst attack on Mekong river shipping in the present dry season.

A Cambodian High Command communiqué reported fighting around Lonng, 25 miles north of Phnom Penh, and round the isolated province capital of Prey Veng, Takeo and Kompong Sella.

The capital was shelled by three Chinese-made 107mm rockets last night, landing near President Lon Nol's official residence. One civilian was wounded.

The rocket attack was the fourth on the capital in the past week. Earlier attacks killed seven civilians and wounded 29.

On Highway Five, north of Phnom Penh, military sources reported that a task force of 10,000 is continuing its consolidation round the recaptured river town of Kompong Luong, 20 miles from the capital. A link-up with the base camp of Lonng is expected during this week.—AP.

Nixon's errand clear alta

Continued from page 1

These allegations are totally without merit or foundation. I want to emphasize that no secret deal has been made which permitted any change in the terms outlined in the 1972 agreement," said the State Department spokesman.

The problem is that these terms are ambiguous and testimony attributed to Mr. Nizze, so recently in the thick of the Salt negotiations was damaging. It was that a "clarifying" agreement passed to the Russians in secret allowed them to convert 22 G-class submarines, giving them 1,020 submarine launched strategic missiles compared to the 950 called for by the United States limited itself to 656 missiles rather than go to the full 710 authorized.

What the issue will come down to is not so much the missiles tally as the issue of decelerating Congress, or at best equivocating.

Private administration sources reaching print—and they say Dr. Kissinger's wounded tone—protest at the Watergate imbroglio and deplore that Senator Jackson has caused a breakdown in the normal faith and credit expected on the eve of a major presidential diplomatic venture. Deplorable or not, it is a fact. Between the Schlesinger and Kissinger came something close to guerrilla war has broken out. Perhaps neither principal is responsible for each attack but the Ho Chi Minh trails of infiltration are clear enough.

For instance, a book by Mr. Kissinger and Bernard Kalb, the CBS broadcasting brothers, published today clearly implies that Dr. Kissinger "tried" blaming Dr. Schlesinger for the delay in the critical United States arms deal to Israel in October 1973.

But Mr. Szulc in his New York article offers another diametrically opposed version. It was Dr. Kissinger who wanted Arabs and Israelis to have "bled each other white," he writes, and who placed obstacles in Israel's path, all the time arranging a scenario that would make the Pentagon look like the "bad guys."

General Haig, Mr. Nixon's chief of staff, is quoted in the Kalb book, relating how President Nixon blew up at Dr. Schlesinger over the airlift deal. But I learn from an authoritative official that this is

Dr Kissinger's rage over Heath request

Mr. Kissinger's camp will not categorically deny it. Dr. Kissinger's camp will not use that word for the President.

Here it is said that the President was not even present during the incident reported in the Kalb book—that the President hardly participated in the policy at this time, at least.

Mr. Kissinger who ordered the airlift to go ahead, via the Azores, whether or not the Portuguese Government agreed to landing rights (it finally did).

It is in this period that Mr. Szulc reintroduces the United States-British dispute over the SR71 spy-plane first reported last October. Mr. Szulc adds the detail that Mr. Heath agreed to the use of the RAF base on Cyprus "if the United States could come up with a cover story that would stand up and not be blown in a matter of days."

On October 10, he writes, a telegram requesting formal British clearance for the SR71 was drafted and taken to Dr. Kissinger for his signature. Mr. Kissinger "at once he flew into a towering rage, denouncing the British as unworthy allies because of Heath's demands for a 'cover' story. It was a real tantrum," an aide recalled. Kissinger threw the official who brought him the telegram out of his office and ordered the cancellation of the SR71 mission.

Mr. Szulc repeats the claim that the cancellation brought the Pentagon fury because it held up for three days knowledge of the battlefield situation.

His article is hostile to Dr. Kissinger and raises the sort of questions that make the Secretary fume. He suggests that his "miscalculations" on the Middle East "could easily have led to unimagined disaster. One of his charges is that Dr. Kissinger panicked over the preparatory movement of Russian forces. He debunks the White House-leaked version that the worldwide nuclear alert had been issued to forestall intervention by seven Russian airborne divisions.

Top intelligence officials say there was nothing to indicate the Soviets were preparing an invasion of the Middle East. He suggests the main purpose was to bring home to the Israelis that they were facing a joint Russian-American peacekeeping force if they did not halt their encirclement at sea.

Mr. Szulc's unkindest cut is to toy with Dr. Kissinger's resignation and speculate on his successors. "Would you believe James Schlesinger?" he writes.

Tito visit to Bonn today

Bonn, June 23.—President Tito of Yugoslavia flies to Bonn tomorrow on his first state visit to West Germany.

The West German Government regards the four-day visit as drawing a line under the bitter legacy of the Second World War when the President, who is now 82, raised an army of partisans to fight the Nazis.

Sia accuses China of 'evil intentions'

June 23.—The Soviet helicopter. Additional approaches have been made in Peking by Soviet officials.

The Soviet crew have been kept incommunicado and accused of having been on a spying mission. They may face trial.

The Russians claim that the helicopter was on a mercy mission to take a seriously ill serviceman to hospital, but lost its way in fog and ran out of fuel.

They are demanding the immediate release of the crew and the return of the helicopter, and warn China of facing "the inevitable consequences" if they do not comply.

The Soviet Government has sought the aid of the International Red Cross in gaining access to the captured Russians but so far there has been no published response by Peking to this appeal.

The helicopter incident has heightened the propaganda war waged by the Soviet press. Recently Soviet television has begun readings of an anti-Maoist book written by a Russian who accompanied Chairman Mao Tse-tung on the march to Peking. It alleges that the Chinese leader lived in luxury while his troops suffered great privations.

Soviet authorities have also raised questions over the passage of Chinese craft along the Ussuri river, marking the Sinking border. In summer, the river drops and barges then have to sail along its Soviet side.—Reuter.



People driven from their homes at Rochester, Minnesota, began returning over the weekend as the Zumbro river receded.

Israeli claim that Arabs 'are playing two tunes'

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, June 23

Mr. Shimon Peres, the Minister of Defence, said today that recent warnings, ultimatums and threats against Israel by Arab spokesmen clashed with their statements about readiness to negotiate.

"This is music in two tunes which are basically contradictory," he said. "It would be unwise of Israel to ignore one tune for the other."

Mr. Peres, who was interviewed in Ben-Gurion airport before flying to the United States, said he would take up this contradiction in his talks in Washington. He was going to discuss with the Americans the translation into reality of items in the final communiqué issued in Jerusalem during President Nixon's recent visit.

His mission had been advanced to include the discussions to take place before Mr. Nixon flew to Moscow.

The Arabs must begin to negotiate seriously, Mr. Peres said. But the real problem was whether the Arabs were trying to achieve by peaceful means what they had failed to achieve by belligerency, or whether they were ready to embark on a compromise.

The Arabs were keeping the Russians in reserve. Even if the Russians lost a little bit, he said, they would still be a major factor in the Middle East.

Mr. Peres said he was not a pacifist, but he was not a warmonger either. He said he was not a divorcee or a divorcee's lawyer.

Today the Israelis completed the withdrawal from 600 square kilometres of territory captured from Syria.

Washington, June 23.—Dr. Kissinger, the Secretary of State, has assured Israel's Ambassador that the United States has no plans to supply weapons either to Egypt or Syria. A State Department spokesman said the assurance was given at a meeting on Friday.—UPI.

Cairo, June 23.—Mr. Ahmed Sultán, Egypt's Minister of Power, left today for Washington to negotiate a contract for nuclear fuel to feed the atomic reactor President Nixon promised when he was here this month.

Egypt is planning to build a nuclear power station at a cost of about \$100m by 1981, but needs to conclude a contract for the fuel in the coming week to ensure delivery by 1982.—Reuter.

Damascus, June 23.—President Assad has "fully responded" to all requests made by the Palestinian guerrilla leadership for fortifying refugee camps in Lebanon against Israel's attacks, the guerrilla news agency said today.

It did not specify the requests made by the guerrillas, but other sources said they were certain to include Soviet-made surface-to-air (Sam) missiles, which the Syrians have in large numbers.—UPI.

Australian political balance settled

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, June 23

The Whitlam Labour Government will have 89 seats in the new Senate, the Liberal Country Party coalition 29 and two independents will hold the balance of power. This position was definitely decided during the weekend when counting was concluded for the tenth Senate seat in New South Wales.

It was won by the Liberal candidate by a narrow margin over his Labour opponent making the result in New South Wales five all. In the old Senate, Labour held 26 seats, the coalition 26, the Democratic Labour Party five and independents three.

The net result from the election is that Labour's majority in the House of Representatives is reduced from nine to five, and its position in the Senate is improved from being in a minority of eight to a minority of two.

That assumes that the two independents will vote with the Opposition, but one of them, Mr. Steele Hall of South Australia, has declared that there may be occasions when he may vote with the Government, notably on health insurance and on supply.

Further complication for the Opposition in the Senate has arisen from the fourth right stand by Senator Ian Wood of Queensland. He has announced that he will stand for the presidency of the Senate against the former President, Sir Magnus Cormack.

Senator Wood has told friends that if the Opposition parties do not support him he will stand for the position on the floor of the Senate and ask for Labour support. He thinks he will get it. One of the independents, Senator Michael Townley of Tasmania, is said to have promised to support Senator Wood. This would give Senator Wood the number of votes to be president.

Last week Senator Wood criticised his Liberal Country Party coalition leader, Mr. Sneddon

Tanzania to compensate Britons for nationalization

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

The Overseas Development Ministry yesterday confirmed reports from Tanzania of an £11m aid agreement for rural development in Tanzania. This was agreed between Mrs Judith Hart, the Minister of Overseas Development, and President Nyerere on Friday at the end of a week of talks in Dar es Salaam.

The agreement provides compensation for the properties of foreigners which the Tanzanian Government had nationalized. British-owned farms and other property will be bought out at an agreed valuation with funds to be loaned to Tanzania by Britain.

The agreement follows closely the existing agreement between Britain and Kenya under which British-owned farms in Kenya have been bought out and distributed to the increasing number of African farmers under a rural development programme.

The £11m will be given partly as a grant (45 per cent) and partly as an interest-free loan (55 per cent) with repayment over 25 years after a seven-year grace period on the lines of agreements with other developing countries including India, Malawi, Kenya, Botswana and Gambia.

Of it, £10m will be in the form of capital aid with £1m in technical assistance. The aid will be given over a period yet to be agreed which is, however, likely to be at least three years and not more than five years.

From a political point of view, both Kenya and Zambia are likely to be pleased also at the agreement, since it should help to balance the increasing influence acquired by China in the area after the completion of the Tanzam railway.

Both the capital aid and the technical assistance will be devoted to rural development which will include such projects as small repair shops.

The agreement means a resumption of economic aid to Tanzania for the first time since 1965 when Tanzania left the Commonwealth and broke off diplomatic relations with Britain over her failure to tighten sanctions against Rhodesia.

Britain's aid programme could not then be administered and was suspended, but the British Government has been looking for ways of restarting aid for rural development programmes, which are considered a particularly useful form of aid since they will benefit an extremely poor country with direct assistance to the poorest members of the population.

Muslim states urged to aid Palestinians

Kuala Lumpur, June 23.—Mr. Abdul An al-Obeidi, the acting Foreign Minister of Libya, today urged the Arab and Muslim foreign ministers' conference to implement its past resolutions on Jerusalem and the Palestinian issue instead of adopting new proposals.

He told the plenary session of the conference: "It would be futile to adopt new and further resolutions when we have not yet applied the previous ones."

In a toughly worded statement Mr. Obeidi went on: "We know that the Palestinian issue and that of Jerusalem have always figured on our agenda."

"Our fourth conference in Benghazi also called for the opening of offices of recruitment in Islamic countries to liberate Jerusalem and Palestine, but how far have we gone in this direction?"

"Jerusalem is still occupied. Unless we implement our resolutions, aggression will continue and Zionism will continue its occupation."

Mr. Obeidi added that the recent agreements on disengagement between Israel and Egypt and Syria did not solve the Palestinian problem.

"Our conference should implement the resolutions taken regarding the recruitment of fighters to liberate Palestine so as to carry out all the resolutions of the United Nations regarding Palestine, because Israel has always refused to comply with them."

He also took the conference to task for not implementing the resolutions on the liberation struggle in Africa.

The conference spokesman said that the chief delegate of the self-proclaimed republic of Guinea-Bissau asked for its recognition.

The political committee given 15 subjects out of the 30 items on the conference agenda, is expected to complete its work tomorrow and submit draft resolutions to the plenary session.—Reuter.

Arabs drop demand for PLO to be at sea law talks

From Marcel Berlins
Caracas, June 23

The threat of a bitter political dispute over moves to have the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) admitted as observers to the International Law of the Sea conference have now receded.

On Friday, the 20 Arab states announced that they were to press for the PLO to be given observer status. Over the weekend, however, a statement from the Arabs made it clear that they were unwilling to force the issue.

There had been sharp reaction to the original Arab plans, especially from the Israelis, who said it was inconceivable that a terrorist group who committed acts of indiscriminate murder and atrocities should take part in the talks.

Other delegations showed concern that a conference aimed at the peaceful solution of common problems should be threatened by a political controversy.

The tension has largely been taken out of the issue following a statement by Mr. Shafiq Abdul Hamid, the Egyptian chairman of the Arab group. He said that the Arab delegates had come to Caracas "determined to contribute fully and effectively to the smooth conduct and success of this important conference."

The reconciliatory statement suggests that, while the Arab group will not necessarily abandon totally its claim for PLO representation, it would not do anything which might have a potentially disruptive influence on the conference generally.

Indian police patrol Sikkim after disorders

Delhi, June 23.—Armed Indian police were patrolling the streets of Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, and other areas of the Himalayan state to maintain law and order, an Indian Government spokesman said today.

The Chogyal (ruler) of Sikkim told Reuter by telephone from Gangtok that the police used tear gas and baton charges to break up demonstrations against a new constitution drawn up by Indian experts.

Several people were injured and taken to hospital, said the Chogyal. Ralden Thondup Namgyal, the Chogyal's son, was on an alert but was not used.

Indian police were controlling the movement of people in and out of Sikkim as well as at certain points within the country, the Chogyal said.

He said the demonstrators feared that the draft constitution and a resolution passed by the National Assembly would mean an end to Sikkim's separate status and herald its incorporation into India.

Sikkim, which lies between India and Chinese-controlled Tibet, is now an Indian protectorate.

The Chogyal said he wanted to discuss some of the constitutional proposals with the Indian Government again and expected to come to Delhi shortly. The constitution, which would reduce the Chogyal's powers, has not yet come before the Assembly as a Bill.

The Chogyal said there had been no counter-demonstrations although Indian press reports have spoken of public meetings by the Sikkim Congress Party, which supports the new constitution.

This is the second crisis in Sikkim in a little over 12 months. In April last year, demands by the Nepalese community, which makes up about 80 per cent of the 200,000 population, for greater political autonomy led to India taking over the Administration.

An agreement signed by the Chogyal, the Indian Government and Sikkim's political parties resulted in elections in which the Nepalese-dominated Sikkim Congress won all but one of the 32 Assembly seats. The Congress is in favour of the followed in the tripartite agreement.—Reuter.

Foreign press blamed for distorting Punjab riots

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, June 23

In its first official statement on the Muslim riots and its recent anti-Ahmediyya agitation in Punjab and the North West Frontier Province the Government of Pakistan said that the three weeks rioting cost the lives of 100 members of the Ahmadiyya sect.

Condemning foreign news media for tendentious reports on the riots, the long statement asserted that the internal happenings in the country had been caricatured and distorted by the news media.

The spokesman also held that statements issued on the agitation by Mirza Nasir Ahmad, chief of the Ahmadiyya sect, and Sir Muhammad Zafrul Khan, a prominent member of the sect and Pakistan's former Foreign Minister, had been incorrect.

The agitation had been controlled by the Government in a mere three weeks through strong administrative action, depriving the federal security forces in addition to the police. Mr. Bhutto, the Prime Minister, had also held talks with the religious leaders involved in the agitation. His promise on June 13 to refer the issue to the National Assembly early next month had taken some heat out of the situation.

According to some press reports, it is likely that the Ahmadiyya sect will be officially declared by the Assembly as non-Muslim. Its members debarred from holding certain key offices in government. A census of the members of the sect holding jobs in civil and military establishments is stated to be under way.

There was a report that the sect might move its religious headquarters from Rawalpindi in Pakistan to Africa in the event of it being declared non-Muslim.

Meanwhile, Mr. Minawar, the president of the Federal Union of Journalists, who has been leading the struggle for the reinstatement of dismissed employees of the *Musawat*, Mr. Bhutto's party newspaper at Lahore, has been imprisoned for six months. He was found guilty of contempt of court by the National Industrial Relations Commission which was hearing the complaint against journalists. The management alleged that by launching a campaign to encourage arrests in order to press their demands in defiance of the government ban on public demonstrations, the workers were guilty of an illegal labour strike. Mr. Bhutto and other ministers and press workers have been arrested in the 35 days of the Lahore struggle.

General Amin's guilt 'is beyond dispute'

Paris, June 23.—In a bitter personal attack on President Idi Amin, Uganda's former Foreign Minister, Mr. Wanume Kibedi, today accused him of atrocities, mistle and economic crimes. "Your personal involvement in the liquidation of thousands of innocent Ugandans is beyond dispute or contradiction," he said.

The late General Amin had based his rule on tribalism and has extensively employed mercenary soldiers from the southern Sudan to "kill, maim and loot".

Poland's new land reform drive

Warsaw, June 23.—Poland is intensifying its "currot and stick" campaign to persuade elderly peasant farmers to hand their land over to the state.

The immediate aim is to avoid a fall in food production as young people leave the countryside in large numbers, leaving behind the old and infirm to till the land.

The subsequent redistribution of land will help Poland to overcome the legacy of the land reform introduced by the communists 30 years ago. Concentrating its patchwork of tiny farms into more economic units.

Inevitably, it will mean a reduction in the number of peasant farms in Poland—the only East European country where they survived the communist takeover—and the gathering of greater tracts of land under the umbrella of "socialized" agriculture.

A law which comes into force next month increases the incentives to elderly or invalid farmers without heirs to hand over their land to the state in exchange for a comfortable retirement. For their farms they will receive larger old age pensions and such social benefits as medical aid and free holidays.

The law, updating previous ones passed in 1962 and 1968, also retains powers for the compulsory takeover of farms run by elderly people if "there is a threat of a decline in production".

One newspaper prophesied that the new incentives which among other things bring pensions paid to retiring farmers to the level of those for employees in the nationalized industries, will double the rate at which farms will be handed over.

In the past five years the Government took over in return for pensions 39,000 farms, totalling 334,000 hectares (824,000 acres).

The law reduces the size of farms which the state is willing to take over from five hectares (12 acres) to three hectares (12 acres) in size which it apparently found un-economic or unable to handle in the past.

This will encompass another 27 per cent of farms held in private hands which, at 15m hectares (37m acres), constitute 80 per cent of Poland's agricultural land.

This piecemeal division of Poland's farmland—often compared to a chessboard—came about partly by the tradition of dividing it on death between all the sons of the family, which in a Roman Catholic country was often big.

But a large contributory factor was the German occupation of World War Two when the communists dispossessed the landed gentry.—UPI.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ERA AND GALLET... THEATRES... CONCERTS... THEATRE... CINEMAS... EXHIBITIONS... A list of various entertainment listings including theatre shows, concerts, and exhibitions.

EXHIBITIONS

ART EXHIBITIONS... A list of art exhibitions including 'The Monday Book', 'The End of the Post-War Era', and 'Voice and Piano Aideburgh Festival'.

THE ARTS AND FEATURES

The Monday Book

Unpredictable world... The End of the Post-War Era... By Alastair Buchan... A review of Alastair Buchan's book 'The End of the Post-War Era'.

Voice and Piano Aideburgh Festival

Joan Chissell... The three anniversary celebrations... A review of the Voice and Piano Aideburgh Festival.

Opening Concert Bath Festival

Alan Blyth... When the weather obliges... A review of the Opening Concert Bath Festival.

Polly Put the Kettle On London Weekend

Leonard Puckley... It was a lovely wedding... A review of Polly Put the Kettle On London Weekend.

The no-nonsense head who has no time for punishment

Her own strength of character... Mrs Alison Munro... A profile of Mrs Alison Munro, headmistress of St Paul's School.



Mrs Alison Munro: She does not look down on her pupils from ethereal heights of moral perfection.

Critical acclaim for Truth to Life

The Art of Biography in the Nineteenth Century... A. O. J. COCKSHUT... A review of the book 'The Art of Biography in the Nineteenth Century' by A. O. J. Cockshut.

FAUVISM AND EXPRESSIONISM... STYLISTIC LINKS IN ETCHING AND WOODCUT... WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY... Advertisement for an art exhibition.

John Chartres

George Hutchinson

Time to draw new boundaries of fairness for elections

Many people were surprised by the result of the last general election and they were again surprised when they examined the results in detail. In no previous postwar election have the Conservatives obtained the most votes without winning the most seats. In the 1951 election the Conservatives received 231,000 fewer votes than Labour but they obtained 26 more seats. In 1951 Labour received support by 39.95 per cent of the total electorate but the only obtained 295 seats, while in 1974 they received support from 29.29 per cent of the total electorate and obtained 301 seats—although the Conservatives had 388,500 more votes. Labour obtained the largest number of lost deposits (28) of the three main parties. The Liberals received massive support but they only obtained 14 seats, an average of 433,000 votes per seat.

In an analysis of the results of the Boundary Commission should be considered. For historical reasons Scotland has a minimum of 7 seats, Northern Ireland 12 seats and Northern Ireland is under-represented with 12 seats. Seat entitlement has not been adjusted to population changes. If a vote in Northern Ireland is taken as the unit, a vote in England is 1.37 units, in Wales 1.58 units and in Scotland 1.67 units. If the system of government of the United Kingdom was based on equality of citizens in the four areas, England should have 12 more seats, Northern Ireland 4.6 more seats, Scotland 12.5 fewer seats and Wales 4.1 fewer seats.

With the introduction of about a dozen constituencies like the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland, Merioneth and Argyll, which for territorial reasons need to be smaller than the rest, and which do not affect the balance of seats of the three main parties, constituencies should be based on equal representation.

All parties are tending to move in the direction of Lord Kilbrandon's report on the Constitution and if the four areas of the United Kingdom are provided with assemblies there will probably be agreement that seat allocation should be based on population.

The most serious divergencies from the principle of equal representation occur within the four areas particularly in England. It was the aim of the Boundary Commission for England to create through a county constituencies of the same size, but it is impossible to do this if the general review of the Boundary Commissions takes place at intervals of not less than 10 and not more than 15 years.

When new boundaries are introduced, the average electorate for the borough and county constituencies are the same, under the present statutory position it is possible that the average electorate for the county constituencies by more than 20,000 before the results of the next general review are implemented.

It is difficult to understand how the House of Commons, a department responsible for the administration of justice, could have

produced such an unfair system. Comparing the seat entitlement of the GLC provided by the Boundary Commission with the entitlement based on the electorates at election time, the Boundary Commission have given the GLC 10 or more seats too many in the last four elections and the outer metropolitan area combined with the outer south-east area 10 or more seats too few.

In the 1964 election an average excess of 5,000 in the county seats compared with the average for the borough seats in England gave Labour the least seats. The financial implications of the unsuitable rules given to the Boundary Commission since 1964, the financial implications are enormous. If they are under the present system as the Poulson affair are by comparison infinitesimally small. Estimates of the results of the 1964 and 1974 election did not consciously take account of the variation in the average size of the constituencies and borough constituencies. For fair elections in England the average size of the difference should not exceed 2,000.

For fair elections there must be annual change by permanent boundary commissions. Population changes can be forecast with reasonable accuracy and boundary changes made annually. This arrangement would be much more satisfactory for members of Parliament as those displaced would be few in number and it should be easier for them to find new seats than under the present system as there are periodical upheavals and a large number of Ms are competing for vacant seats.

An indication of the results of the 1974 election, if it had been conducted on the principle of equal representation is given in the table.

The Boundary Commissions did not provide fair conditions for the first election with new boundaries. The average difference between the county and borough constituencies was 9,000, and the more rapid growth of the county constituencies are likely to increase this difference to more than 4,000 in 1979 and more than 18,000 in 1983. Parliament believes in the principle of equality of political rights for all citizens living in both urban and rural areas, new boundary commissions should be established with the least possible delay so that in the future general elections in the United Kingdom are conducted in a fair way.

Parliament will not be fully respected unless elections are arranged by methods which seem to be up-to-date and fair. The reputation of the United Kingdom within the European Community will be diminished if members of the House of Commons are chosen by less fair methods than those which are typical of many activities and organizations of this country.

Richard Wort

	Election 1970	Dissolution 1974	Election 1974	Election 1974 Weighted by number of electorates in each constituency	Election 1974 Weighted by number of voters in each constituency
Conservative	230	322	296	307.2	319.5
Labour	285	287	287	287.7	287.2
Liberals	11	11	14	12.5	13.3
The Speaker	1	1	23 x)	24.7 x	22.7 x
Others	6	9	2	1.1	1.2
	630	630	635	635	635
x United Ulster Unionist Scottish Nationalist Plaid Cymru			11	15.6	13.6
			7	4.9	4.9
			2	1.1	1.2

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Why Mr Healey will win the battle for the left

Mr Benn or Mr Healey? Who will secure the leadership of the Labour left? Mr Benn's attempt is so forthright and undisguised that no one can doubt his intentions. His high, banner unfurled in all its gaudy colouring, bugle sounding the bold call to march with him, he charges forward. He may be reckless but he is not reticent. There can be no mistaking his goal.

Mr Healey, in contrast, is less flamboyant, more subtle and reserved. No silken flags for him, no trumpeters, no glittering rhetoric as he enters the lists. If his challenge to Mr Benn is not universally recognized, that is because he is more discreet. They have the same objective, but differ both in manner and method of approach.

Mr Benn's appeal to the left is based principally on his insistent call to Labour to seize the commanding heights of the economy—to possess them by a brazen, authoritarian and unrestrained extension of public ownership, control and direction of industry and commerce. Mr Healey has chosen a different platform from which to promote his claim to the leadership of the left: emblazoned above it are the words "Snak the rich".

In short, Mr Benn believes that his purpose is best served by preaching nationalization and restoring the venerable Clause IV of the Labour Party constitution to all its old prominence. Mr Healey prefers the prospective wealth tax.

Who will prevail? Much depends on Mr Michael Foot. With the Labour left, Mr Foot enjoys something in the nature of papal power and influence. Presented with alternative courses of action for consideration, and assuming both to be doctrinally sound, Mr Foot will do what the Vatican would do. He will judge between them on grounds of practicality, asking himself which is the more realistic and potentially rewarding.

I foresee that Mr Foot will come down in favour of Mr Healey. Indeed he may already have done so, though he has not yet pronounced.

Mr Foot must realize, Mr Healey's threat to snak the rich is unlikely to cost Labour many votes (though it will detach some), since most people are not rich. But Mr Benn's obsession with public ownership is quite another matter. There is a real, overwhelming or even substantial liking for what he is recommending so strenuously, in spite of the provocative behaviour of a number of individual company chairmen, shamelessly lining

their pockets while everyone else is expected to exercise restraint. In general, people do not care for officialdom and have no wish to increase its intrusion into their working lives. So far from enlarging the bureaucracy, they would rather diminish it.

My conclusion is that Mr Benn will continue to collect the odium attaching to a generally unpopular cause (however keen its adherents in the Parliamentary Labour Party), while Mr Healey—glad to allow him the notoriety—collects the leadership of the left by the simpler, and electorally safer, expedient of attacking the rich.

Both are militants—but one is cleverer than the other.

Mr Wilson has no occasion nowadays to use public transport in London, nor has he relied on it for many years. This is just as well for his peace of mind, but not necessarily helpful to most of us. I wonder if he knows how inadequate, chancy, wearisome and frustrating the bus and tube services have become. I seldom travel during rush hour. It is not uncommon to wait 20 minutes or more for an underground train, and even longer for a particular bus. By its own admission, London

Transport is running down alarmingly for want of staff. But this is only one aspect of the urban and general deterioration of everyday life in London. There are many other elements. All are contributing to a disturbing decline in convenience and comfort and every sort of amenity, however humdrum or commonplace.

Because Greater London contains a huge proportion of the population of England, its deficiencies, the dispiriting defects in its public services, and the deepening exasperation of its citizens can reasonably claim special attention. To say this is not to overlook other parts of the country or to deny that they, too, have their troubles. But for the present I am considering some of the vexations of London, not because of its capital status but for the more workaday reason that it houses so many people who are being subjected to increasingly severe inconvenience (not to say expense) of a kind unknown in Penrith or Plymouth.

Despite his romantic associations with Huddersfield and his own experience, and I believe, very fond of the place, if he were now to give his mind to what is wrong with it, he might conclude that we need a Minister for London. A minister of Cabinet rank, moreover. The social complications of London, both as capital city and vast urban concentration, are too numerous, too delicate, too interwoven, and in administration too costly, to be committed to the management of a local authority, the GLC, without supervision by one minister, as distinct from piecemeal intervention in this or that sphere by various ministers.

Public transport, its cost and availability, is one consideration. This is related to the intolerable traffic congestion in central London (should private cars be banned, with necessary exceptions?). Another factor—the difficulty in recruiting staff for any public service in London because of the exceptionally high cost of living, mainly housing. Consequently there are too few bus drivers, too few hospital workers, too few street cleaners. The results are apparent: we can see them every day.

There are too many hotels, too many office blocks. While we cannot pull them down, what other means can be devised by government to deal with a situation in this sort of town. Much of London has been ruined by property development since the war. The gradual process need not be reversed if the Government has the will to end it.

On his return to Washington from the Middle East, Sir Nixon might spare a th for Mr Healey and Sir Douglas-Home. They, as a Dr Kissinger, contributed success of his visit. The reconciliation with the States could not have developed so speedily by the better atmosphere of friendlier attitude to the engendered by the police our own recent Government America is one beneficiary. Sir Alec's fall, realized understanding took.

Two other Conservative have proved exceptionally on Arab affairs are Mr Mour, Lord Carrington's assessor as Defence Secretary Mr Dennis Walters, the Westbury, Mr Walters has a consistent and rather sighted advocate of Anglo-cooperation for many years always to his advantage foresees the turn in Anglo-relations with the Arab 18 months ago, which I than can be said of MPs. But then, he had vantage of serving his apprenticeship as an assistant to the wise Lord Sham.

Britain's part-time soldiers are happy just to be there

The recommendations of the review board are an official secret but the suggestions put to it by the TAVR Associations, the civilian bodies which still in effect raise the Army's open ones. They would like to see more, not less, spent on the TAVR, and believe that even in such times of financial stringency their case would stand on the grounds of cost efficiency.

The TAVR now has about 60,000, some 50,000 of them serving in "committed" units which have definite mobilization tasks allocated to them amongst NATO forces in Europe. The remaining 10,000 are in additional infantry battalions authorized by the last Conservative Government on its return to power.

Many units, like the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, have been reduced to a skeleton of two Labour Government units in which they were first reduced to a sort of home guard status and then to suspended animation cadres of only eight officers and men.

Three years after getting the soldiers to reform, the DLOY, which thinks it is now entitled to a phoenix in its battle honours, has brought itself up to 85 per cent of its establishment of 400, with 100 per cent officer strength. Its history began, like that of all the reserve units, with horses and rich officers, has gone through what the colonel-in-chief, the Queen, once called "many vicissitudes" during which its members have been successfully and successfully cavalrymen, infantrymen, gunners, tank crews and reconnaissance experts. Now they are soldiering as infantrymen with simple weapons and equipment and an "uncommitted reserve" role.

The TAVR Associations claim that their force is the effective reserve of all senior Army officers, particularly those who have seen reserve units take their places in Rhine Army. Many will go to the length of saying privately that they have the same or better training as conscripted units from other west European nations. Certain technical arms, such as the Royal Signals, would probably not be able to carry out their NATO commitments at all with

out the rapid support of their TAVR elements.

My personal observations— with the modest authority of having commanded a yeomanry squadron for ten years, having seen many TAVR units training since my own experience, and past four years, and having seen at close quarters regular units operating in such theatres as Aden, Borneo and Northern Ireland—would be that a good TAVR unit would need little more than a fortnight to bring up to full operational standard, providing it were not expected to handle the more sophisticated types of modern military equipment.

In simple terms it is estimated that a TAVR unit costs the taxpayer less than a quarter of the sum expended on an equivalent regular one. The biggest items in Army budgeting are the pay and allowances and various "perks" for men and officers and their families. Soldiers in the TAVR are paid for a total of about one month's work per year and do not require married quarters, schools or elaborate barracks and welfare facilities.

Serving officers and NCOs in the TAVR admit that the surgery imposed by the Labour Government in 1966 and again in 1968 was beneficial in many ways, even if it was painful at the time. The modern TAVR is half the size of the old TA, but it is clearly more efficient, with greater demands made on training time and physical fitness, mandatory examinations for every stage of promotion, more support provided by regular instructors, more modern equipment and a generally more serious attitude engendered towards the realities of even part-time military life.

With the danger signs which the nation has received such as the Northern Ireland brief of a few weeks ago and other slides towards anarchical situations, the present members of the TAVR cannot believe that their potential to just provide reserve manpower could be underestimated by any sensible politician in the consideration of defence review.

What is now loosely known as the "TAVR theory" is the politically explosive ideas put forward by Brigadier Frank Kitson, former commander of 39 Brigade in Belfast, on the possible future requirements for troops

White Safari that put apartheid on film

"Disregard blacks and Black policemen in particular!" It was said twice for an urban, highly educated man to give two liberal-minded, young, Englishmen, and older still as he was black himself.

But Nana Mahomo and his colleagues knew exactly what they were doing because: "White South Africans—assume every other white man—agrees with them—unless he's crazy or communist." This was basic to their plan. They realized, though, that they got out of touch, so with help from closely concealed contacts at home, spent a year and a half preparing the young (South African) group.

"We didn't try to make these guys pretend they were not foreigners," explains Mahomo, an ex-student of Cape Town University and MIT, and former Foreign Affairs spokesman for the South African Congress banner, the Shanielle.

"They just had to be acceptable, wear conventional clothes and shortish hair, and fall in with white attitudes. We had to give them a chance of surviving."

One of the Englishmen, the film-maker, cum soundman, came from television and had been instrumental in smuggling out End of the Dialogue, the first opus of Mahomo's company, Opus Films; the other, the cameraman, was fresh out of film school and had never seen South Africa before.

Both knew it was an assignment no established professional could afford to take on: they risked long prison sentences as subversives if they were caught; they would have to remain anonymous for the sake of those who took even greater risks helping them; and there was so little money available they'd be lucky to get more than their expenses paid.

Yet survive they did not only for two months, but for another six weeks after almost a third of their footage was ruined in a London laboratory.

The fruit of the group's labours was the film *Leads Crime*, which was first acclaimed by *Le Monde* as "the most remarkable documentary" at year's Cannes Festival, and left a capacity audience visibly stunned after the 50-minute rickety preview at the National Film Theatre last week.

Without luck, the film has been on the shelves since last year. Mahomo's 450 child gaffer, camera and lighting bottles in the sand.

But with luck, they wish they wanted from the different South African phone numbers and feeding-bottles in the sand.

Now what they and producers and patrons of the film have done is to have created the nut which Durck and Cavish and a London C. This isn't enough. The film to be seen in the States is a faded, found British program British companies, it is curiously slow in cut.

William

The Times Diary

A tender and moving experience



By now small parties of explorers were being led into the new building. They returned ash-faced and quaking. "We can't," they said, "more there." The entrance hall was not ready. Access was still through *The Sunday Times* building next door and across a link bridge which, we had been told, was unnecessary. In yet another memo, was "having temporary cladding installed to make it weathertight and safe."

Not much else seemed ready, either, according to the pioneer's reports. The floors were still strewn with wires. And they were undimpressed by the low partitions, instead of walls, which meant that the huge office floor was virtually open plan, not at all like the privacy he had been used to.

So thin of us as you sitting in a huddle talking our little red guide, least we shall not have. One of the last received contained the phrase: "The Thom canteen will be served on Sundays." And at least one link with this column will come the initials of our old Printing House Square. So now it is time for a new beginning. All right, I can break open the Georges now. Robbi, where are you? Robbi, see that paper sack!

The newsletter of the Party at Framwellgate reports: "The city seeking designs for animal bearings." P. house, who sent it, this might have reflected current state of the P. North-East.

Next I had a visit from one of the planning liaison people. "I have," he said, smiling, "a little disturbing news." The article separating the Diary Office from that of the Deputy Editor next door had been put in the wrong place. This meant that he and his secretary had the space meant for the four of us, while the Diary would be squeezed into half the area. "I am trying," said the liaison man, "to have the partition moved." "Good," I said.

An early memo had promised us confidently that, four or five weeks before the move, a booklet would be available selling us all there was to know to be integrated comfortably into Great Britain Road—all about transport services, restaurants, shopping, open spaces. Just four days before the move, it appeared.

It is, by any standards, a comprehensive guide to the mysteries of Framwellgate. The contents of carboards and shelves.

My colleague, Robin Young,

If this Diary ever reaches your eyes, it will mean that our great more from Printing House Square in Gray's Inn Road will have been completed. To say that it has been completed successfully would be to say the least, particularly since I am having to write this several days in advance, to help with the transportation. The fact that we have apparently produced a newspaper for you this morning means we are there, and are likely to take root.

It has been no small thing and, for the benefit of anyone who has never had to move office in this scale, I want to tell you what it has been like. It started almost exactly two years ago when we began getting memos saying that construction of our new headquarters was beginning, after delay in getting planning permission.

Nobody really took it very seriously. With the new building still just a hole in the ground, the move seemed comparatively remote. So much could happen (and indeed did) before the projected completion date. The sense of urgency was heightened by the almost zany quality of the memoranda which would flow from time to time drop on to our desks.

Listen to this one, dated October, 1972, announcing a slight delay due to a strike, but adding: "Sheet piling is due to be driven down the north side of Coley Street during the week beginning October 9, and is designed to prevent Coley Street from collapsing into the excavation work." With any luck they would set their sums wrong, Coley Street would collapse, and we could stay comfortably put.

But the memos kept coming, announcing further triumphs, the new building was circled and then, in the middle of last year, a plan showing the proposed layout of the interior.

One feature of this plan was that it gave the Diary a smaller allocation of space per person than any other department, but luckily there were other complaints about it, and two members of our staff were detached from normal duties for some months to work on a new scheme. An outside expert was hired to help. When they had finished they summoned me to see some material they had discovered with pretty coloured blocks representing chairs and desks, and announced proudly that the Diary now had more space per person than most other departments. "Good," I said.

The target date for the move was put at the end of April but the shortages of fuel and materials paid to that and it was shifted to the June date. I was convinced this date would not be met either and I finally fixed my holiday for August, confident that the move would be delayed until then. Foiled again.

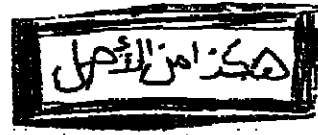
For history

By now the memos were coming at almost one a day, though a depressingly large number of them seemed to be about whether we wanted to volunteer for redundancy, which seemed a negative approach. There were that even more depressing and well-publicized one a month or two ago which contained a heavy-handed warning that if the unions did not agree quickly, no terms for the move, *The Times* would close down.

Some of the memos were contradictory. One day we received one saying that large sacks would soon come round in which we were to throw our rubbish. But then there were more, signed by you as you can. A few days later came another note, signed by the editor himself, which said we must not be so ruthless after all.

John Chartres

My colleague, Robin Young,



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837-1234

DAY IN TWO CENTURIES

The whole it is best for a paper to look out at the d and not to become too self-conscious as an institution, regardless the first move of ion in 189 years is a matter of historic interest to *The Times* a natural moment to look at own history and at what we trying to do now. It is also a moment to comment on the gratitude on the organization required to produce a newspaper in one house on any night and in another on Sunday night.

The first great impetus of *The Times* was the French Revolution. From the point of view of the rise of Napoleon and the leonic Wars were probably the greatest news story of the 19th world. *The Times*, when only four years old when Bastille fell, covered that story better than any other paper in London, or indeed Paris. That was how *The Times* began.

The French Revolution also led the Burkean basis for political attitudes of *The Times*. We started as an anti-newspaper, and an anti-newspaper we remain to day. That is to say we have stentily detested the doctrine that the world is to be made by shortening men by the sword; we are against the ideal of the guillotine or the chop of the Lubianka.

It is that from the beginning we adopted Burke's belief in the welfare of mankind only be preserved by free institutions, that beneficial work will come by the hard work of building good institutions and not by the quick of knocking them down. In early nineteenth century *The Times* developed the reforming of this Burkean view of the world. The Great Reform Bill owed more to *The Times* than it did to any

other single power in British public life. To this day those who find the Reform Bill an unsympathetic measure regard *The Times* as a left wing newspaper.

This is a period when any British institution should look back to its roots to examine its effectiveness. Is the House of Commons what it started out to be, the protector of the welfare and interests of the people of Britain? Are the trade unions securing the prosperity and employment of their members? Are our industrial and financial companies effectively maintaining the wealth of the nation, including the value of the savings entrusted to them? Any examination of what an institution was established to do is a process likely to lead to humility. After all, none of these institutions exist for themselves; they exist to serve the public.

In our prime task, that of informing the public about news that has actually happened, *The Times* is now in a different position from earlier days. In the period before radio the press was the monopoly purveyor of news. Now we are one of many newspapers and newspapers are one of several news media. The quantity of information available to any member of the public is very great, its quality is not always as good as it should be, but most news in most media is in fact reliable.

What could be termed the post-horse and semaphore problems of actually obtaining the news are therefore much less than they were. Yet there are other problems. One is to spot the news in the plethora of information; too many facts can be even more confusing than too few. Another is to avoid being manipulated by the news making skills of government. Watergate confirmed what all journalists know, that governments can lie and lie and lie again when they

think themselves seriously threatened. In more normal times they merely try to persuade with half truths.

Yet it is not now information but understanding which the public lacks. Even a few years ago most people felt that they lived in an intelligible world. Even war may be very alarming, but in its own way a straightforward activity, with a purpose which was summed up by General MacArthur, "in war there is no substitute for victory".

Few of us now feel that we understand properly the complex social and economic influences which appear so threatening. It is clear that the politicians do not, and there has been a steady decline in their confidence in themselves, let alone in public confidence in them. At the sight of the Treasury Bench one feels the same touch of sympathy that Gray felt for Etionians: "Alas, regardless of their doom The little victims play".

The job of a newspaper must be to wrestle with this intractable and unpredictable political and economic material, to provide the information, both national and international, but also to try to master it. For a newspaper of public affairs, that is now the central task. We should all be humbled about our ability to do it. Plainly, if in the press we did our job better, the country would not be in the mess it is, or if it were in the same mess, would know better how to get out.

Yet what does not change in the mind of *The Times*, and has not changed under all its proprietors and editors, is the belief that the freedom of the press—the whole press—and the freedom of Britain are indissolubly linked, so that one could not survive the other. Nor have we lost the belief that the first duty of a newspaper is to support the free institutions of the country, through the full information of the public.

IE BALANCE OF POWER IN CHINA

rs displayed in Peking are complaining of violence in ous, the province that was cradle of Mao Tse-tung's ant guerrilla movement than forty years ago. There been rumours of similar trouble before now coming other provincial capitals the subject of charges e in posters in the Chinese tal. If the campaign against Piao and Confucius has not same objectives as the al revolution it begins to as though it is following same course. The charge is made in the posters that Kiangs provincial authorities refused to intervene, ing, rightists to assault ts. In 1967, it may be re, it was the army that was ed by Chairman Mao to to the aid of the left.

least the army is not ind in the latest campaign. much can be asserted since s only after the tenth party ess last August that the s authority over the army finally reestablished; the of the military from the influence of the upper con or power, Lin Biao has one aspect of the campaign was then inaugurated. But, lea that the present cam: is under party control;

that it is not a campaign, as was the cultural revolution, of ight, assault on the party by Red Guards, answers none of the questions about the struggle within the party for power. Like the cultural revolution, and if anything even more obviously so, the current campaign provides a screen for such a struggle.

If this struggle had not been present the campaign might have been ended by now. Three hours devoted to it over and above the workers' forty-eight hour working week must have become exacting after several months. In April there seemed to be an attempt on the part of moderate elements to bring the campaign to a close. Articles written in their support recalled the pleas made during the last months of the cultural revolution and quoted Chairman Mao's instructions in 1968. It was not difficult for the radical faction to appeal in turn to the Chairman's arguments for continued struggle and use his words of 1967 to justify their continued attacks. Whereas the cultural revolution saw a rise to dominance of the army, which Lin Biao sought to use for his own ends, the circumstances may be much more complex but for other reasons much more urgent.

There was no doubt that Mao's

drive and command were both at work in the cultural revolution. Can the same be said now? His influence and supposed favour must still be necessary to whatever factions or individual competitors for power are in the field. But is he any longer capable of directing the campaign or measuring its progress towards definite objectives? Can Mr Chou En-lai, retired by age from much of his heavy administrative burden, exercise his great authority within the party, where he has been less active, rather than within the government? To the ambitious outsider the field must look more open, the end of Mao Tse-tung's rule much closer, the disappearance of a generation with no dominant figure to succeed, much more obvious.

On balance it is still hard to see a radical Maoist faction emerging at the top. Radicals have the greater hold on the media and can make the most noise but when one counts the heads province by province in the May Day turmoils, the old rather than the new revolutionaries who seem to be occupying the most seats. The pressures within China must surely be towards order after so much revolutionary turmoil.

vid Wood

r Benn as e villain the election

the week opened at Westminster it was a strong probability Mr Wilson would want, or be in, the week closed it was a a certainty. The Government, wellish, the Chief Whip, said he record, no longer found it ale to govern whenever the als and Nationalists formed a tion with the Conservatives; it is clear that Mr Heath's s are now to create occasions such coalitions. Last week Labour's plans for state interon in industry, through the door as well as the front door, week it will be the stirring up scoundrels about agriculture and would be naive to think that Heath has been forced on to a amentary offensive by rank and zionism that he has been avoid a frontal attack on the Gov. Mr Short, the Leader of House of Commons, has the exclamation when he says that Heath knows he has now the "safe period". That is ay, Mr Wilson and his party agers can scarcely risk a July ion, with Labour voters and y workers on holiday, and is fore committed to a date in mn unless the Government: vidual parts of its two remain- indispensable Bills—the Finance and Mr Foot's amendment Bill appeal the Industrial Relations canwhile, of course, on the mption of an autumn election, Heath has to do as much age as he can to the Govern- during the four or five weeks are left before Parliament rises, the long summer recess and the season for party politics

begins. By the end of July the Government will still be governing but it will be difficult for the Opposition to go on opposing.

The election campaign has therefore been launched. Mr Heath is being reconnected to his Shadow Cabinet, partly to fill vacancies and partly to give new men a chance to say new things; and he has also pinned together post-election policy studies to provide a sketch of a draft for his manifesto. He would undoubtedly prefer the Opposition to go on as a minority through the winter and let the Government founder into the deep crisis that every informed politician sees coming, but he knows that this will not do him any good.

Last week there were three distinct defeats for the Government as the coalition attack opened. The Government lost the new clause in the Finance Bill that would have allowed £100 to be refunded to trade unions which refused to register under the Industrial Relations Act, and it is scarcely believable that Mr Healey could succeed in restoring it when the Bill reaches report stage, much less in the House of Lords.

The following night the Government had a double defeat by 21 votes on the so-called Benn plan for nationalisation, and to avoid another humiliating rout had to retreat on higher charges for electrical storage heaters.

Politically the defeat at Mr Benn's Secretary of State for Industry was far and away the most significant. Except in engineering terms, it was bogus. First, as Mr Wilson argued in easily the feeblest speech he has made in the House, there is nothing new in the Benn plan, nor is it specifically the creation of Mr Benn. Essentially, it has been Labour policy since Hugh Gaitskell's time as Labour leader, and some signs of it were seen in Lord George-Brown's grandiose and ill-fated National Plan (September, 1965) and Mr Benn's drive behind the disbanded Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. It was again discussed in a visionary way at the 1973 Labour Party conference,

and is to be found in Labour's election manifesto.

Secondly, as Mr Wilson also pointed out, in the House, there are not yet any plans approved by the Cabinet, or even before the Cabinet, which are still being developed by Mr Benn and his Minister of State, Mr Eric Heffer.

Why, then, the sudden frontal attack on Mr Benn and "Bennism"? The answer is that here lies the basic election divide. Mr Heath and the Conservatives are likely to have when Mr Wilson names the day. As Mr Heath went to the country in February asking the electorate to support him in a confidence vote, the Government will be displayed in the autumn asking the electorate to support them in a no more constructive confrontation with private industry for no better reason than the appeasement of his Left wing. And by the autumn the portents of an economic crisis and an industrial recession may be expected to be as plain as day to the most apathetic voter.

The tactical success of Mr Heath and his party managers already goes far beyond the double defeat of the Government on Thursday night in the Commons, and beyond the discovery that the Liberals and Nationalists are eager to join in the fray.

They have built up and established Mr Benn as the villain of the piece, and Mr Benn has never enjoyed good public relations or a personal popularity that spreads wide even in the Labour Party. They have forced Mr Wilson to play second fiddle, yet still stum Mr Benn's tune by protesting he fully supports the plans that he says in the next breath do not exist. They have turned Mr Benn into an electoral embarrassment to the Government while making sure that he cannot be suppressed or repudiated.

More than that: they have revealed Mr Benn as an ambitious politician who is trying on Mr Wilson's mantle for an office which not only Mr Wilson, in the Cabinet room, will never forget or forgive.

Partition for Ulster?

From Mrs Anthony Firth

Sir, Whether or not re-partition in Ulster is the conclusion to be drawn from the V. V. Hodson's valuable comparison between India in the fordes and Northern Ireland now (June 19), current policy appears still to blak at the root cause of Unionist intransigence.

From the invention of the sub-Westminster, has been founded on a contradiction. Successive British governments have sought both to maintain the integrity of the United Kingdom across three-and-a-half nations and to devolve the half-with the transparent intention of being rid of it.

These objectives are incompatible, and ultimately self-defeating. They have been consistently pursued; and as consistently perceived by Ulstermen who, whatever their political complexion, have the fundamentalist's grasp of essentials.

The Stormont regime would not have endured as long as it did had not Ulster Unionists taken—and Westminster connived at—deviant measures to entrench their position under the anomalous 1920 Act. The 1973 Act embodies power-sharing, which is to say policy-sharing; strategy as well as tactics. This, being not susceptible to bending, broke.

The strategy could only be pan-Irish once the "Irish dimension" was admitted. The tactics envisaged for Ulstermen were those from the North contributing to the formulation of some pan-Irish solution.

It was a racing certainty that once the Ulster electorate was allowed to choose the strategy (as democracy, indeed, required), the majority would be given the justification it sought to sabotage the tactics. Once Westminster (and Dublin) was obliged tacitly to abandon or indefinitely to postpone the strategic end, the chosen Ulstermen would be left high and dry.

If the 1973 Act is tried again, with or without the "Irish dimension", it will break again. Because the notion of power-sharing, as a strategy for the Ulstermen to live peacefully together, is as contradictory in a devolutionary context as devolution itself is in a United Kingdom context. If Protestants and Catholics can be persuaded to live peacefully together, then the fundamental reason for the border, for a divided Ireland, for the existence of the sub-state disappears. And Ulstermen know it.

This is not a reflection on the morality of British policy, but on its efficacy. It was clearly stated by the late Lord Reading, the Ulsterman, that he would be unthinkable; we must now think about them.

Yours faithfully,
GAY FIRTH,
59 Frognal,
Hampstead, NW3.

Office of Lord Chancellor

From Mr Herbert Baron

Sir, With reference to the second reading in the House of Lords of the Lord Chancellor (Tenure of Office and Discharge of Ecclesiastical Functions) Bill, which provides that in the event of a Roman Catholic being Lord Chancellor, the Queen in Council should have the power for the exercise of all functions normally performed by the Lord Chancellor, including patronage in livings, surely the legal doubt which has so long troubled constitutional lawyers as expressed by Lord Reading, should not be confined solely to Roman Catholics?

That doubt has also been held as to Jews, namely, as to whether, a member of the Jewish faith could hold the Office of Lord Chancellor; indeed I well remember that in a speech by the late 1st Lord Reading, he said that, in his opinion, a Jew was legally entitled to be so appointed. At one time a Jew was disqualified from being a Member of Parliament. That disability has since been removed by legislation. Surely therefore, the time is now opportune for the insertion in the Bill of a small amendment, whereby a Jew is also qualified to be appointed Lord Chancellor.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
HERBERT BARON,
7a Bedford Towers,
Kings Road,
Brighton.

£600m for coal

From Mr J. C. Burns

Sir, Your leader on coal (June 19) is most constructive, but before Mr Varley hands over six hundred million pounds of the taxpayers' money to the Coal Board, he might peruse the Government to consider the relationship between wages and production. As an example, since the settlement of the strike and the payment of the new rates, production at Betsushanger Colliery, the largest in Kent, has declined by 25 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. BURNS,
Coombe Cottage,
Coombe Lane,
Ash, Canterbury.

Army or university

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool

Sir, September, 1939. Recently commissioned 2nd lieutenant (formerly university lecturer in Greek) explaining to sergeant (Regular Army) in charge of sand-bag filling operation outside the War Office that the reason why the bottom rows of bags were bursting was because they had been over-filled. "Only fill them three-quarters full," he advised. To which the sergeant replied "Don't be daft, Sir; if they'd intended that they'd have made the bags smaller".

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR THOMAS,
The Vice-Chancellor's Lodge,
12 Sefton Park Road,
Liverpool.

Distribution of the rates burden

From Councillor Gordon Roberts

Sir, The letter from Sir Robert Thomas and others (June 19) argues the case in support of the proposition that more rate support grant should be paid to the main urban areas because of the high cost of dealing with the problems of those areas. Whilst many people would recognize the justice of the case for paying more from central funds to help to improve the quality of life in the conurbations, the present arrangements do not take into account the contribution being made by counties receiving population from the city areas into new and expanding towns.

Northamptonshire which has two new towns, Corby and Northampton and two expanding towns, Daventry and Wellingborough, has the fastest rate of growth of any county in the United Kingdom, having increased its population by 12 per cent in the past five years. By 1981 the county will have provided homes for over 50,000 people from London in Northampton, 20,000 Londoners in Wellingborough, and 20,000 people from Birmingham in Daventry. I am sure that Sir Robert Thomas and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities would agree that we in Northamptonshire are doing our best to help the cities with their housing difficulties. Unfortunately neither the last Government nor the present one have given adequate financial support for our efforts.

Because the grant for the current year is based on population figures for 1972, there are now 20,000 extra people living in Northamptonshire who are not recognized for grant purposes. When it is considered that their children are being educated in our schools entirely at the expense of local rates, with no grant assistance from central Government, it is not hard to imagine the resentment on the part of Northamptonshire ratepayers at the "more rough than just" distribution of rate support grant.

The decision of the Conservative Government in 1973 to pay more to the cities added the equivalent of 5p in the £ to the county precept and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities added a further amount varying from 3.50p to 9p in the £ to the precept for domestic ratepayers, with the result that domestic rates have gone up by 60-80 per cent, and in some cases 100 per cent.

Sir Robert and the Association of Municipal Authorities cannot expect counties such as Northamptonshire to continue to support schemes for providing new homes for people from the conurbations without adequate financial support, either from central Government or from the cities to whom additional rate support grant has been directed. The financial needs of all who contribute towards solving the problems of the cities, whether the metropolitan local authorities themselves or local government authorities in new towns and expanding town areas, must be recognized by the Government and the Local Authority Associations during the negotiations for next year's Rate Support Grant. If there are no other ways will be great pressure in the expanding areas for the rate of growth to be drastically curtailed.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON ROBERTS, Leader,
Northamptonshire County Council,
County Hall,
Northampton,
June 21.

From Major Henry Hodson

Sir, From Mr John Silk's replies in the House on June 12 to MP's questions on the reform of local government finance, it is obvious that the Government is seriously undervaluing the reaction of ratepayers throughout the country—and particularly in the rural areas—to the astronomical rise in rates this year.

Ratepayers are well aware of the factors contributing to the rise. What they want to see is immediate action by the Government to ameliorate their situation and to restrict further increases next year to those directly attributable to whatever rate of inflation we may still be suffering. There are a number of steps which the Government could immediately take, if it so wished:

First, an immediate withdrawal of the sewerage element, contained in the charge levied by the new water authorities, from rural properties not connected to main drainage;

Secondly, an immediate embargo

The National Front

From Mr John Tyndall

Sir, It is interesting to observe many press commentators and public figures now advocating that view of the violence that took place on the occasion of our march meeting in London last Saturday all such marches and meetings should be banned in the future.

I find this a quite extraordinary position for people to take who believe in free speech and democracy. As any check with the police authorities will confirm, there was no question of our own march and meeting being planned with violent intent. We had arranged the march and booked the hall for the meeting two months ago, when no knowledge of any opposing presence on the occasion existed.

As soon as our intentions were known, various left-wing groups started organizing deliberately a counter-demonstration with the clear and premeditated intention that it should be violent and that our march and meeting should be to use their own words, "smashed". For the month prior to the event these left-wing groups were issuing instructions to their followers in the form of leaflets, posters and newspaper appeals which could lead to no one being reasonable doubt that violence against the National Front was intended.

Throughout the entire day's proceedings our own members acted with exemplary restraint as can perhaps be recognized by the fact that not one single one of them, out of over 1,500, was arrested.

Yet the penalty that some people now expect to pay for the provocation of our opponents and our own restraint in the face of that

on any new capital commitments by local authorities, with the exception of essential projects in the spheres of housing, welfare and education;

Thirdly, the injection of a supplementary rate-support grant for the benefit of the worst hit areas; and

Finally the immediate setting up of an inquiry—not a Royal Commission—into local government finances.

Mr Silk himself agreed that "a case is being made out that we do need to consider the whole system again". The present rating system imposes iniquitous and inequitable burden on domestic ratepayers. Introduced in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, it is now completely out-dated and incapable of carrying the ever increasing cost of the numerous and expanding services for which successive governments have made local authorities responsible.

A simple system of local income tax, based on ability to pay and levied on every adult with a net taxable income in excess of, say, £1,000 per annum, would be the most practicable solution. There would be no need for a further army of civil servants or local government officers; for the same sum calculated as the taxable figure for an individual's national income tax would be notified by the Inland Revenue office concerned to the district treasurer in which the taxpayer's nominated residence was located. This figure would then be used to multiply whatever rate in the £ (of income) had been fixed by the local authority concerned.

Such a system would have two beneficial results. There would be no need for further quinquennial revaluations of domestic property and consequently a considerable reduction in the staff of rating and valuation officers; and the number of local valuation panels to hear appeals, could be effected. Above all, the proposed local income tax would be paid not only by the existing 16 million ratepayers (who are also national taxpayers) but also the nine million non-ratepaying local government electors who now make no effective local contribution towards the local cost of the county and district council services of which they are today the principal users.

HENRY HAYDON,
Chairman, National Union of Ratepayers' Associations,
47 Victoria Street, SW1,
June 17.

From Mr Raynald Franks

Sir, I recently attended a valuation court in a rural area. The cases listed were all residential and the appellants were old people from cottages in the country.

The chairman and the valuation officer, with every possible courtesy, tried to explain the basis of the assessment but there were not many present who were able to grasp the conception of a "hypothetical tenant", and the invariable answer was "but I have no intention of letting my property."

An aged, retired nurse, veteran of two world wars, said that her assessment had been increased from £4 to £265. She went on to say that she had come down by stages, as she became older and poorer, to the smallest available dwelling in which could maintain her independence, and that her resources were now stretched to the limit. Any further step would have to be into an old people's home, which she was quite unable to contemplate.

There must be hundreds of thousands of cases such as this. House owners may have no answer to the valuer's calculation that the rooms in their houses are worth a rent of £1.84 per metre, but they know what they have to live on and are not going to be satisfied with an assertion that things will be better next year.

Yours faithfully,
RAYNALD FRANKS,
The Corner House, The Green,
Middleton Cheney,
Banbury, Oxon.
June 14.

From Mr B. R. Davis

Sir, Why do I pay rates on my garage, which I use as a store, but not on the road overnight, while those who leave their cars outside at all times (because they have no garage) pay no extra rates?

Yours faithfully,
B. R. DAVIS,
Flat 3,
5 Dartmouth Terrace, SE10,
June 18.

Who's White Horse?

From Mr Airey Neave, Conservative MP for Abingdon

Sir, Writing from Warwickshire on June 5, Miss Jacqueta Hawkes demands the return of the Uffington White Horse to the County of Berkshire. She estimates that the White Horse is 2,000 years old. Is it not in consequence far older than county boundaries? Miss Hawkes claims that Berkshire owns "the White Horse and has been deprived of it by officious bureaucrats."

The White Horse does not "belong" to Oxfordshire or Berkshire, it belongs to the nation. It is in the care of the Secretary of State for the Environment and accessible to all the people. Despite the transfer of my constituency to Oxfordshire, many of my constituents continue to feel that they are Berkshire people, but they would rightly resent the removal of the White Horse from within the centuries old boundary of the Parish of Uffington and from the new Vale of White Horse District.

Miss Hawkes may not realize that the monument is quite invisible from any part of New Berkshire. It can be seen from 50 villages in Oxfordshire and commands the Vale as it has done for 2,000 years. My constituents in the Vale will put up formidable opposition to any alteration in the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission.

May I suggest that Miss Hawkes now turn her attention to excavating the ancient Red Horse of Warwickshire?

Yours faithfully,
AIREY NEAVE,
House of Commons,

Taxing works of art

From Mr Denis Mahon

Sir, Mr Edgar Palamoutain's somewhat simplistic contribution to the subject of whether or not to include chattels in a wealth tax (June 22) is confined to considerations of economic theory, and only one limited aspect of these. But the repercussions in other fields, which ought to be accepted as of the greatest importance for any civilized society, could not fail to be both far-reaching and most damaging. The problem is therefore that of judging where lies the least irresponsibility.

It is true, and doubtless has always been true, that some works of art are of the greatest investment value. But this is not true of the vast majority of the immense quantity of works of art owned by citizens of the United Kingdom. To shoot down an entire flock of birds for the satisfaction of winging two or three black ones in the *debté* is scarcely recommendable.

Also the fact should be borne in mind that the very far from simple operation of acquiring works of art solely for investment, and is invariably attended by serious potential penalties arising from the multiple inherent risks (for instance, authenticity, condition, difficult disposability at the desired time at the desired price, and many more). And even when the works themselves are of the highest quality, the anticipated profit can very well evaporate and indeed turn into loss; in this connection I would refer Mr Palamoutain to a well-documented article in the *International Herald Tribune* of June 18, entitled "When an Investor Goes Awry," and referring to the Paris market.

It should also be pointed out that the acquisition of works of art may be, and often is in the case of small collectors, in substitution for expenditure on consumer goods or ephemeral services, and is instantly in the form of saving. In addition, the recent sensible enlargement of the standards for the acceptance of works of art in satisfaction of estate duties provided just one ray of hope for the future of our public collections (whose purchasing funds have never been adequate and are in these days still less so). On the other hand, the cultural losses to this country resulting from sales abroad occasioned by a wealth tax would be huge and irreparable. Yet when the Socialist Government in Denmark introduced such a tax it wisely excluded chattels (and this still holds good).

Finally, I should like to add a further point to those already indicated by members of the art trade concerning the highly speculative character and total administrative impracticability of valuation for the purpose of such a tax. The huge, repetitive character and the fact that valuations on paper are bound to be constantly gained by resultant sales distinguish them radically from other forms of valuation and would render them a completely intractable proposition for all involved.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1,

The ten Commandments

From Miss Margaret Chignell

Sir, As an RE specialist in a grammar school, may I assure Dr Robert Carroll (June 15) that no boy or girl taking GCE advanced level Biblical studies for the early method of Israelite history would fail to know the historical and cultural setting of the Ten Commandments. But also no perceptive boy or girl would fail to appreciate (which apparently Dr Carroll does not) that what characterizes works of genius is their universal application regardless of their particular setting. Do we write off the Bhagavadgita because we are not wearing Indian princely or the marvellous Shakespearean understanding of human nature, because we are not Elizabethans?

It so happens that the last seven commandments of the Ethical Decalogue consist of the minimum requirement on which any society may exist in relative order and stability. The maximum requirements are, of course, found in Jesus's summary of the law in terms of love.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET A. CHIGNELL,
Head of Religious Education Department,
Bolton School,
Bolton, Lancashire.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will present new colours to the four battalions of the Parachute Regiment at Aldershot on July 15.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit and officially declare open the Oatridge Agricultural College, West Lothian, on July 2.

Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Grand President of St John Ambulance, will attend a reception at St James's Palace on July 3 to meet delegates from overseas to a two-day conference in London.

Birthday's today

Lord Conesford, QC, 82; Mr Jack Dempsey, 79; Mr Ralph Edwards, 80; Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, 59; Mr Brian Johnston, 62; Sir George Martin, 50; Lord Pakeney, 85; Lieutenant-General Sir William Pike, 69.

Church news

Appointments: The Rev. R. M. K. ... The Rev. R. M. K. ...

Can the image of God be made to lose its maleness?

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent The Christian church has a male God, a male Saviour, a male dominated leadership, but a predominant female membership...

Can the image of God lose its maleness? It seems to be the key question one that emerges again and again in the Anglican Church...

Marriages

Mr R. C. O'Donnell and Miss A. M. Westwood The marriage took place on Saturday, June 22, 1974, at St James's Church, Spanish Place...

Mr M. R. Templeman and Miss L. P. Davis The marriage took place on Saturday, June 22, 1974, at the Temple Church, of Mr Michael Templeman...

Mr E. L. Allsup and Mrs Y. T. Castle The marriage took place quietly in London, on June 21, of Mr Eric Allsup and Mrs Yolanda Castle...

Today's engagements

Princess Margaret attends reception given by the High Commissioner for Barbados in honour of the Governor-General of Barbados and Lady Scott...

Board sees possibility of extending its courses to self-employed farmers

The "containment", to use the word of its chairman, in which the Agricultural Training Board has been operating over the past two or three years will be little eased at the beginning of August...

Agriculture

Leonard Amey

It is that after a most unpromising start, it is now being greeted by all parties in the industry. The controversies that surrounded its early years are almost entirely forgotten...

OBITUARY

GEOFFREY RHODES Labour MP since 1964

Mr Geoffrey Rhodes, Labour MP for Newcastle East since 1964, died on Saturday at the age of 45. He had been suffering from congestion of the lungs for some weeks.

GEN SIR C. KEIGHTLEY Governor of Gibraltar

Mr Michael Brufal writes: As a Gibraltarian may I add a few words to your comprehensive obituary of General Sir Charles Keightley...

MISS MARY ETHEL SEATON

Miss Mary Ethel Seaton died on June 17. She was the daughter of Francis Lambert Seaton, one of the last members of the Honourable the East India Company's Navy...

KNUD JEPPESEN

Sir Alec Randall writes: Students of music, especially polyphonic music of the 16th and 17th centuries, will be with regret that a Danish musician and with respect a reputation, Knud Jeppesen died recently in his 82nd year...

MR JOHN SCOTT

W. O. C. writes: John Scott, who died Switzerland on June 13, 1974, was born in 1911 and had a brilliant career at Winchester and at Cambridge...

LIEUTENANT GEN SIR CHARLES COLEMAN

Lieutenant General Sir Charles Coleman, KCB, DSO, OBE, died at the age of 77 in London on June 21, 1974. He was a distinguished soldier and statesman...

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS

Sir Christopher Furness died on Friday at the age of 73. The son of the first baronet whom he succeeded in 1914 he was educated at Charterhouse and Pembroke College, Cambridge...

25 years ago

From The Times of Thursday, June 23, 1949

Ending an exile

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, June 22: A private Bill has been introduced in the Assembly by an MRP deputy...

Science report

Astronomy: Collaborating on quasar

Great excitement was caused in astronomical circles last year when two quasars were discovered. These objects have been examined by radio astronomers around the world...

New Inland and Overseas postal rates from today



Table showing postal rates for Inland letters and parcels. Inland letters: 1st Class up to 2oz: 4 1/2p, 2nd Class up to 2oz: 3 1/2p. Inland parcels: 2lb 23p, 4lb 30p, 6lb 36p, 8lb 42p, 10lb 48p, 12lb 53p, 14lb 58p, 16lb 63p, 18lb 68p, 20lb 73p, 22lb 78p. Local parcels 5p less.

The Post Office logo and additional information about postal services and rates.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy: Major General D. B. Barling to be Adm. Sir R. N. Coll. ... Royal Air Force: Group Captain J. C. Forster to be Air Marshal...

Life peerages

The life peerage conferred on Sir Samuel Fisher and Mr A. L. N. D. Houghton have been gazetted by the names, styles and titles of Baron Fisher of Camden...

Premium Savings Bond weekly

The weekly £25,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by number 1JF 151979. The winner lives in Cornwall.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before duty paid; further duty may be payable on some estates): Cock, Mr Gerald Alfred, of Windlesham Manor, near Crowborough, Sussex...

Keith Cardale, Groves & Co. Chartered Surveyors

Textron pact details raise doubts over Lockheed's ability to fulfil conditions

Frank Vogl, London, June 23. The future of the Lockheed-Textron pact... Lockheed's ability to fulfil conditions...

Air Trading chief views monopolies

John Methven, Director of Fair Trading... views monopolies...

£42m drillship order for Scott Lithgow

Scott Lithgow, the lower Clyde shipbuilding group... £42m drillship order...

Tokyo may enforce recycling of waste

Tokyo, June 23.—The Japanese Government is preparing the world's first recycling Bill...

Bill before Dail is designed to realize James Connolly's dream of a single trade union for all Irish workers

Legislation now being steered through the Dail... James Connolly's dream of a single trade union...

Italy braced for £2,000m taxes to beat crisis

Italy is braced for £2,000m taxes to beat crisis... capital investment in industrial production...

Arab funds may ease UK problem on payments

Arab funds may ease UK problem on payments... The Treasury is known to have been concerned for some time...

Coal Board aims to use railway site as focal point for Selby operations

Coal Board aims to use railway site as focal point for Selby operations... The National Coal Board has submitted proposals...

Producers want fixed copper price minimum

Producers want fixed copper price minimum... From Our Correspondent Lusaka, June 23. A fixed minimum price for copper...

Court Line finance discussions continuing

Court Line finance discussions continuing... details of any financing operation have been published...

Sohio agrees on negotiator for deal with BP

Sohio agrees on negotiator for deal with BP... Cleveland, Ohio.—Standard Oil (Ohio) said it had reached agreement...

Iran aims at fourfold rise in gas charges to Russia

Iran aims at fourfold rise in gas charges to Russia... Tehran, June 23. A high-level team of Iranian experts...

SHOPS ACQUISITION DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS & LETTINGS JOHN D. WOOD 23 Berkeley Square London W1X 6AL

Mercedes-Benz and lorries rarer today

Mercedes-Benz and lorries rarer today... Mercedes-Benz announced to-day that the price of its cars...

US predicts oil output will double by 1976

US predicts oil output will double by 1976... Washington, June 23.—Iraq's oil production of 2.1 million barrels a day...

On other pages Appointments vacant 17 Business appointments 14 Financial news 15 Financial Editor 14 Share prices 16 Unit trust prices 15 Bank Base Rates Table 15 Company Meeting Report: The Boots Company 15 Redemption Notice: Government of New Zealand 14 Lending rate 1 1/2 pc The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is unchanged this week at 1 1/2 per cent.

Homebuyers 'should get profits from state land'

Profits made in the release of nationalized land should be used to benefit home buyers, not the Treasury, according to a report just published by the National House-Building Council.

The council, a non-profit-making organization which maintains a national house-builders register, says it is most important that if nationalized land is to be auctioned the Treasury profits on sales should be publicly recorded and used, for example, to reduce the tax burdens of building societies or to help those of average or below average incomes to buy their own houses.

The report calls for the maximum possible amount of debate and consultation before any steps are taken on legislation. A Green Paper should be issued on the subject, it says.

Shell plans to spend £100m a year on chemicals expansion

Shell is planning to spend about £100m annually on investment in its chemical interests. It intends to increase this as its chemical business grows.

The figure represents the likely level of expenditure by Shell Chemical companies outside the United States, and most of the investment will take place in Europe.

Outlining the group's policy at the recently commissioned £142m plant at Moerdijk, Holland, Mr W. C. Thomson, a director of Shell International Chemical Company and a member of the group's chemical coordination committee, said that further investment at the plant would be announced later this year.

Societies face £1m Budget tax problem

Britain's building societies are involved in an argument with the Inland Revenue authorities which would cost them another £1m in taxes and, they maintain, force up the mortgage rate in the long term.

The argument arose out of the Chancellor's Budget increases. Interest on savings with the societies is paid out with the tax already deducted, but to save paper work, they agreed on a rate representing the average paid by investors individually.

The problem now is that tax rates have gone up about 10 per cent since the Budget, and a larger proportion of investors have moved into higher tax brackets. Thus the composite rate of tax has risen from 23.5 per cent to 26 per cent.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The danger still facing housebuilders

Last week it was possible to find more than one quoted housebuilder whose stock market capitalization had fallen below the asking price of a dozen of its own houses. Share prices have been gyrating wildly in one or two cases, and the indications are that the housebuilders are poised to embark on a course painfully similar to that of the property sector, which has already seen one quoted company go into the hands of a receiver and manager.

The background to this gloomy picture is the inadequate flow of funds into the building society movement, which has resulted in a fall in demand for new houses.

At the same time builders are labouring under the burden of heavy interest charges on their land banks and work in progress. Where the land bank was substantially increased last year before the boom in land values broke, the burden is particularly heavy.

There is not much doubt that the balance sheets of many quoted housebuilders would show a deficit of net tangible assets if their land bank were included at a realistic up-to-date valuation.

As for the revenue account, many are finding it difficult to sell enough houses to meet the cost of servicing their borrowings. It is surprising that some of the quoted housebuilders have managed to hang on so long in the face of this straitened climate.

The position is not, however, as extreme as it appears. In most areas there is still a market in new houses, which is more than can be sold for secondary property. What is more, the local authorities have been active buyers in many areas.

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National Savings down £8.5m

National Savings for the four weeks to May 25 showed a reduction in the amount remaining invested of £8.5m. Repayments exceeded receipts by £4.1m and net accretion of £25.6m was insufficient to offset it, according to figures released yesterday by the National Savings Committee.

Show centre finance urged

Commercial and industrial companies in Birmingham are coming under pressure to back the publicly financed £20m National Exhibition Centre project by investing private capital to improve the city's entertainment, sports and other facilities.

Plessey workers accept £2.40

Five thousand Plessey Telecommunications employees at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, and Long Eaton, Derbyshire, agreed to resume normal working this morning, after accepting a company offer of £2.40.

Industry in the regions: Crippling cost of Seaforth fiasco

For almost two years the £12,500,000 ultra modern grain terminal which was built as part of the new Seaforth container and bulk handling complex at Liverpool docks has been standing idle.

Both of these solutions add considerably to costs. Using the big ships and unloading them directly at Seaforth would, it is estimated, mean a saving of around £5 a ton compared with smaller ships and conventional handling techniques, and transshipment via Rotterdam adds up to £3 a ton to handling costs.

Recently a committee representing Liverpool port users was set up, while the haggling between the port authority and the TGWU has been going on. The 22 months' delay in opening the new terminal has cost the grain, milling and feedstuffs industries on Merseyside some £6m in additional costs.

Men would have to be continually moved around the docks, and there would be no permanent identity between management and workers at the grain terminal itself.

struck a similar bargain with them over the operation of the new container terminal. This is now being managed on a rota basis by dockers in the port. However, it is clear that the management is not at all happy about the way this system has worked out in practice and it wants to avoid any new commitments of this kind.

The reason is that throughout that time—and in spite of the fact that negotiations began well before the new facility was completed—the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company and the Liverpool dockers have failed to resolve their differences over pay, hours and manning scales.

Some of these industries, among them Allied Mills and Kellogg, put substantial investment into new developments on Merseyside linked directly to the Seaforth terminal in expectation of its opening and becoming fully operational during 1972.

Indeed, the cash rates seem no longer to be at the centre of the dispute and union negotiators have, apparently, already recommended their acceptance. However, deadlock has been reached over the insistence by shop stewards, first, that the manning scale should be increased to 148

men and secondly and most importantly, that the work at the terminal must be shared on a rota system by all dockers employed in the port. This would involve some 7,500 men.

The threat to Merseyside is that unless it can resolve the problems of its dockers and then make the new terminal a success, the industries it was built to service will move out. This could mean the loss of up to 4,000 existing jobs in the area, and no new jobs would be created if the firms concerned remained and flourished.

Business appointments

Royal Worcester elects Dr Aldington chairman
Dr John Aldington has been appointed chairman of Royal Worcester in succession to Mr A. F. Street. Mr Street remains a member of the board.

SKF (uk.) Limited
A British Company and a member of the world-wide SKF Organisation

Freight report
Dry cargo owners see rates squeeze
Tanker owners are well accustomed to sudden shipping freight collapses, but there are indications that their dry cargo counterparts have enjoyed a solid 18 months of high rates, are about to suffer as well.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES
The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain released by the Department of Employment yesterday.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
The following are the index numbers for industrial production in April, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100).

Statement by the Chairman, Mr. H. N. Sporborg

1973 was a year of mixed fortunes for many industries. Despite the recovery in industrial activity and record sales both at home and overseas the result for our Company could, against this background, be regarded as disappointing since our profit was slightly lower than that of the previous year, mainly—as so often before—because many factors entirely outside our control influenced the result.

The period has been one of unprecedented increase in costs as when statutory control of prices did not permit these increases to be promptly or fully reflected in improved price levels. This situation was exacerbated by the already low level of prices for ball and roller bearings being further depressed by the strenuous competition experienced from overseas and from some local sources.

The serious problems which afflicted the United Kingdom at the end of 1973 and in the early months of 1974 will not make 1974 an easier year than 1973 and many of the problems still persist. The energy crisis and short time working covered a serious setback not only to the Company, but also to many of our customers and the outlook for certain industries to which we are a major supplier does not naturally cause for optimism.

It makes sense

The 'Greiff-Chemicals' Hold bid for Chemical Security, worth £4.9m assuming accuracy of the cash offers, lights a complex series of developments. Still, the bid means itself to Chem holders on income and grounds, while in the stock market, they may opt for a cash "out" rather than a future earn promise.

Chem Secs has about 8 cent of Croda International, Croda in turn has about 20 cent of Greiff, which will reduce to 11.3 per cent on acceptance of the share of the common link is Mr F. Wood, chairman of Croda Chem Secs and also a director of Greiff.

Chem Secs was originally Wood's personal holding, but through it has since developed interests including merger and, as Greiff has a prime case to be made out for its benefits.

Freezer companies Special problems

Bejam last week went below its issue price of 72p for the first time since the flotation in June 1973. At 65p, where it is capitalised at £5.9m, the shares were 18p down on the week, 29p lower than the peak of 125p.

With Alpine Holdings floated last year at 73p, plunging new depths to a market worth of £1.1m at 11p, a fall of 8p in two weeks, the stock market was ensuring that the fashion for companies selling home freezers and the food that goes in them was at least temporarily laid to rest.

Of the two quoted companies most closely involved with the freezer market, Alpine looks the most vulnerable. Most of its trading profits from deep freezers and frozen foods, down in 1973-74 from £300,000 to £181,000, came from the sales of freezer units.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

Government of New Zealand

Twelve Year 6% Bonds due July 15, 1979

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the above-mentioned issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has drawn by lot for redemption on July 15, 1974 at 100% of the principal amount thereof through operation of the Sinking Fund, 7,679,000 principal amount of said Twelve Year 6% Bonds due July 15, 1979 bearing the following distinctive numbers:

28-11-2088-2090-2092-2094-2096-2098-2100-2102-2104-2106-2108-2110-2112-2114-2116-2118-2120-2122-2124-2126-2128-2130-2132-2134-2136-2138-2140-2142-2144-2146-2148-2150-2152-2154-2156-2158-2160-2162-2164-2166-2168-2170-2172-2174-2176-2178-2180-2182-2184-2186-2188-2190-2192-2194-2196-2198-2200-2202-2204-2206-2208-2210-2212-2214-2216-2218-2220-2222-2224-2226-2228-2230-2232-2234-2236-2238-2240-2242-2244-2246-2248-2250-2252-2254-2256-2258-2260-2262-2264-2266-2268-2270-2272-2274-2276-2278-2280-2282-2284-2286-2288-2290-2292-2294-2296-2298-2300-2302-2304-2306-2308-2310-2312-2314-2316-2318-2320-2322-2324-2326-2328-2330-2332-2334-2336-2338-2340-2342-2344-2346-2348-2350-2352-2354-2356-2358-2360-2362-2364-2366-2368-2370-2372-2374-2376-2378-2380-2382-2384-2386-2388-2390-2392-2394-2396-2398-2400-2402-2404-2406-2408-2410-2412-2414-2416-2418-2420-2422-2424-2426-2428-2430-2432-2434-2436-2438-2440-2442-2444-2446-2448-2450-2452-2454-2456-2458-2460-2462-2464-2466-2468-2470-2472-2474-2476-2478-2480-2482-2484-2486-2488-2490-2492-2494-2496-2498-2500-2502-2504-2506-2508-2510-2512-2514-2516-2518-2520-2522-2524-2526-2528-2530-2532-2534-2536-2538-2540-2542-2544-2546-2548-2550-2552-2554-2556-2558-2560-2562-2564-2566-2568-2570-2572-2574-2576-2578-2580-2582-2584-2586-2588-2590-2592-2594-2596-2598-2600-2602-2604-2606-2608-2610-2612-2614-2616-2618-2620-2622-2624-2626-2628-2630-2632-2634-2636-2638-2640-2642-2644-2646-2648-2650-2652-2654-2656-2658-2660-2662-2664-2666-2668-2670-2672-2674-2676-2678-2680-2682-2684-2686-2688-2690-2692-2694-2696-2698-2700-2702-2704-2706-2708-2710-2712-2714-2716-2718-2720-2722-2724-2726-2728-2730-2732-2734-2736-2738-2740-2742-2744-2746-2748-2750-2752-2754-2756-2758-2760-2762-2764-2766-2768-2770-2772-2774-2776-2778-2780-2782-2784-2786-2788-2790-2792-2794-2796-2798-2800-2802-2804-2806-2808-2810-2812-2814-2816-2818-2820-2822-2824-2826-2828-2830-2832-2834-2836-2838-2840-2842-2844-2846-2848-2850-2852-2854-2856-2858-2860-2862-2864-2866-2868-2870-2872-2874-2876-2878-2880-2882-2884-2886-2888-2890-2892-2894-2896-2898-2900-2902-2904-2906-2908-2910-2912-2914-2916-2918-2920-2922-2924-2926-2928-2930-2932-2934-2936-2938-2940-2942-2944-2946-2948-2950-2952-2954-2956-2958-2960-2962-2964-2966-2968-2970-2972-2974-2976-2978-2980-2982-2984-2986-2988-2990-2992-2994-2996-2998-3000-3002-3004-3006-3008-3010-3012-3014-3016-3018-3020-3022-3024-3026-3028-3030-3032-3034-3036-3038-3040-3042-3044-3046-3048-3050-3052-3054-3056-3058-3060-3062-3064-3066-3068-3070-3072-3074-3076-3078-3080-3082-3084-3086-3088-3090-3092-3094-3096-3098-3100-3102-3104-3106-3108-3110-3112-3114-3116-3118-3120-3122-3124-3126-3128-3130-3132-3134-3136-3138-3140-3142-3144-3146-3148-3150-3152-3154-3156-3158-3160-3162-3164-3166-3168-3170-3172-3174-3176-3178-3180-3182-3184-3186-3188-3190-3192-3194-3196-3198-3200-3202-3204-3206-3208-3210-3212-3214-3216-3218-3220-3222-3224-3226-3228-3230-3232-3234-3236-3238-3240-3242-3244-3246-3248-3250-3252-3254-3256-3258-3260-3262-3264-3266-3268-3270-3272-3274-3276-3278-3280-3282-3284-3286-3288-3290-3292-3294-3296-3298-3300-3302-3304-3306-3308-3310-3312-3314-3316-3318-3320-3322-3324-3326-3328-3330-3332-3334-3336-3338-3340-3342-3344-3346-3348-3350-3352-3354-3356-3358-3360-3362-3364-3366-3368-3370-3372-3374-3376-3378-3380-3382-3384-3386-3388-3390-3392-3394-3396-3398-3400-3402-3404-3406-3408-3410-3412-3414-3416-3418-3420-3422-3424-3426-3428-3430-3432-3434-3436-3438-3440-3442-3444-3446-3448-3450-3452-3454-3456-3458-3460-3462-3464-3466-3468-3470-3472-3474-3476-3478-3480-3482-3484-3486-3488-3490-3492-3494-3496-3498-3500-3502-3504-3506-3508-3510-3512-3514-3516-3518-3520-3522-3524-3526-3528-3530-3532-3534-3536-3538-3540-3542-3544-3546-3548-3550-3552-3554-3556-3558-3560-3562-3564-3566-3568-3570-3572-3574-3576-3578-3580-3582-3584-3586-3588-3590-3592-3594-3596-3598-3600-3602-3604-3606-3608-3610-3612-3614-3616-3618-3620-3622-3624-3626-3628-3630-3632-3634-3636-3638-3640-3642-3644-3646-3648-3650-3652-3654-3656-3658-3660-3662-3664-3666-3668-3670-3672-3674-3676-3678-3680-3682-3684-3686-3688-3690-3692-3694-3696-3698-3700-3702-3704-3706-3708-3710-3712-3714-3716-3718-3720-3722-3724-3726-3728-3730-3732-3734-3736-3738-3740-3742-3744-3746-3748-3750-3752-3754-3756-3758-3760-3762-3764-3766-3768-3770-3772-3774-3776-3778-3780-3782-3784-3786-3788-3790-3792-3794-3796-3798-3800-3802-3804-3806-3808-3810-3812-3814-3816-3818-3820-3822-3824-3826-3828-3830-3832-3834-3836-3838-3840-3842-3844-3846-3848-3850-3852-3854-3856-3858-3860-3862-3864-3866-3868-3870-3872-3874-3876-3878-3880-3882-3884-3886-3888-3890-3892-3894-3896-3898-3900-3902-3904-3906-3908-3910-3912-3914-3916-3918-3920-3922-3924-3926-3928-3930-3932-3934-3936-3938-3940-3942-3944-3946-3948-3950-3952-3954-3956-3958-3960-3962-3964-3966-3968-3970-3972-3974-3976-3978-3980-3982-3984-3986-3988-3990-3992-3994-3996-3998-4000-4002-4004-4006-4008-4010-4012-4014-4016-4018-4020-4022-4024-4026-4028-4030-4032-4034-4036-4038-4040-4042-4044-4046-4048-4050-4052-4054-4056-4058-4060-4062-4064-4066-4068-4070-4072-4074-4076-4078-4080-4082-4084-4086-4088-4090-4092-4094-4096-4098-4100-4102-4104-4106-4108-4110-4112-4114-4116-4118-4120-4122-4124-4126-4128-4130-4132-4134-4136-4138-4140-4142-4144-4146-4148-4150-4152-4154-4156-4158-4160-4162-4164-4166-4168-4170-4172-4174-4176-4178-4180-4182-4184-4186-4188-4190-4192-4194-4196-4198-4200-4202-4204-4206-4208-4210-4212-4214-4216-4218-4220-4222-4224-4226-4228-4230-4232-4234-4236-4238-4240-4242-4244-4246-4248-4250-4252-4254-4256-4258-4260-4262-4264-4266-4268-4270-4272-4274-4276-4278-4280-4282-4284-4286-4288-4290-4292-4294-4296-4298-4300-4302-4304-4306-4308-4310-4312-4314-4316-4318-4320-4322-4324-4326-4328-4330-4332-4334-4336-4338-4340-4342-4344-4346-4348-4350-4352-4354-4356-4358-4360-4362-4364-4366-4368-4370-4372-4374-4376-4378-4380-4382-4384-4386-4388-4390-4392-4394-4396-4398-4400-4402-4404-4406-4408-4410-4412-4414-4416-4418-4420-4422-4424-4426-4428-4430-4432-4434-4436-4438-4440-4442-4444-4446-4448-4450-4452-4454-4456-4458-4460-4462-4464-4466-4468-4470-4472-4474-4476-4478-4480-4482-4484-4486-4488-4490-4492-4494-4496-4498-4500-4502-4504-4506-4508-4510-4512-4514-4516-4518-4520-4522-4524-4526-4528-4530-4532-4534-4536-4538-4540-4542-4544-4546-4548-4550-4552-4554-4556-4558-4560-4562-4564-4566-4568-4570-4572-4574-4576-4578-4580-4582-4584-4586-4588-4590-4592-4594-4596-4598-4600-4602-4604-4606-4608-4610-4612-4614-4616-4618-4620-4622-4624-4626-4628-4630-4632-4634-4636-4638-4640-4642-4644-4646-4648-4650-4652-4654-4656-4658-4660-4662-4664-4666-4668-4670-4672-4674-4676-4678-4680-4682-4684-4686-4688-4690-4692-4694-4696-4698-4700-4702-4704-4706-4708-4710-4712-4714-4716-4718-4720-4722-4724-4726-4728-4730-4732-4734-4736-4738-4740-4742-4744-4746-4748-4750-4752-4754-4756-4758-4760-4762-4764-4766-4768-4770-4772-4774-4776-4778-4780-4782-4784-4786-4788-4790-4792-4794-4796-4798-4800-4802-4804-4806-4808-4810-4812-4814-4816-4818-4820-4822-4824-4826-4828-4830-4832-4834-4836-4838-4840-4842-4844-4846-4848-4850-4852-4854-4856-4858-4860-4862-4864-4866-4868-4870-4872-4874-4876-4878-4880-4882-4884-4886-4888-4890-4892-4894-4896-4898-4900-4902-4904-4906-4908-4910-4912-4914-4916-4918-4920-4922-4924-4926-4928-4930-4932-4934-4936-4938-4940-4942-4944-4946-4948-4950-4952-4954-4956-4958-4960-4962-4964-4966-4968-4970-4972-4974-4976-4978-4980-4982-4984-4986-4988-4990-4992-4994-4996-4998-5000-5002-5004-5006-5008-5010-5012-5014-5016-5018-5020-5022-5024-5026-5028-5030-5032-5034-5036-5038-5040-5042-5044-5046-5048-5050-5052-5054-5056-5058-5060-5062-5064-5066-5068-5070-5072-5074-5076-5078-5080-5082-5084-5086-5088-5090-5092-5094-5096-5098-5100-5102-5104-5106-5108-5110-5112-5114-5116-5118-5120-5122-5124-5126-5128-5130-5132-5134-5136-5138-5140-5142-5144-5146-5148-5150-5152-5154-5156-5158-5160-5162-5164-5166-5168-5
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FINANCIAL NEWS

Armitage go ahead with expansion

In spite of the present economic climate Armitage, Shanks, plumbing fixtures and fittings group, is to go ahead with capital expansion programme as planned.

Little appeal in Rand-SU merger

While the proposed merger between Rand Selection and Schiesinger Insurance and Institutional Holdings will probably be approved by shareholders, there are some arguments for its supporters.

Results this week

TODAY: Finals: Brown & Tawse, Culnens Stores, Dimplex, Etc. Components, Gilpin, May & Russell, S. & P. Stores and Whitcroft. Interims: British Oxygen and Galley Group.

The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices for various sectors like Industrial, Retail, and Financial, with columns for Index, Change, and High/Low.

Brokers' views

After a fortnight of almost unrivalled gloom in equities, it is heartening to read that a courageous investor could be well rewarded by selective purchases of equities at today's prices.

Commodities

There is now little doubt in most people's minds that the two-year boom in commodity prices is over. There will be some sharp rallies, which could possibly last a few days at a time, but overall the trend is downwards.

Cipec ministers meet today as copper prices begin to wilt

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Rubber depressed

Along with metals rubber prices are often a good guide to the general well being, or otherwise, of industrial activity.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week.

Table listing various unit trusts and their performance metrics, including names like 'The British Unit Trusts' and 'The Overseas Unit Trusts'.

Bank Base Rates

Table showing bank base rates for various banks including Barclays Bank, NCF, and others.

Dualvest optimism on shares

While any rally in share prices may be restricted in the immediate future by such factors as the trade deficit, inflation, liquidity fears, high interest rates and continuing political uncertainty, Dualvest, chairman of Dualvest, believes by the end of the company's year to March many of these problems may have eased.

Weston Pharm

Weston Pharmaceuticals, the retail and wholesale chemists group where collapsed fringe bank London & County has a 27 per cent stake, has not had a particularly good year.

Wool pessimism

Meanwhile, there has been heavy buying by both the Australian Wool Corporation and the New Zealand Wool Marketing Corporation to keep wool prices from falling too steeply.

Cocoa classic

In cocoa there has been some dire forecasts over the current quarters grading (consumption) figures. The United States figure is tentatively forecast at 25 per cent down, the United Kingdom 12 per cent lower, and Japan's first quarter figures fell nearly 18 per cent.

Share prices

Following companies will lead the London and national Share Price List to-day and will be published in Business News: Commercial and Industrial; Electrical Int; Midland Allied Press Journals; and Madeley.

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Results this week

TODAY: Finals: Brown & Tawse, Culnens Stores, Dimplex, Etc. Components, Gilpin, May & Russell, S. & P. Stores and Whitcroft. Interims: British Oxygen and Galley Group.

The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices for various sectors like Industrial, Retail, and Financial, with columns for Index, Change, and High/Low.

Brokers' views

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Advertisement for Boots shoes, featuring the slogan 'We continued with our policy of 'Boots for Value', so ensuring a fair deal for our customers.' It includes a bar chart showing Net World Sales and Profit before tax from 1970 to 1974, and a list of company achievements.

London and Regional Market Prices

Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today Dealings End, July 5 Contango Day, July 8 Settlement Day, July 16

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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Main table containing stock market data with columns for Stock, Price, Dividend, and Capitalization. Includes sub-sections for BRITISH FUNDS, COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, FOREIGN STOCKS, DOLLAR STOCKS, BANKS AND DISCOUNTS, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES, CAPITALIZATION, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL TRUSTS, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, OIL, PROPERTY, RUBBER, and MISCELLANEOUS.

